

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Oberland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVIII.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1908.

No. 17

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	283
Leading Articles.—	
Thibet	284
The Revival of Romanism in England	284
Japan and the Pari-Mutuel	284
The Welcome to America's Fleet	285
Indian Aspirations	284
British Foreign Policy	286
Hongkong's Opium Revenue and the Military Contribution	286
Random Reflections	287
Hongkong News	288
Farewell Dinner to Admiral and Mrs. Stokes	288
Suicide of a Ship's Officer	288
Discarding the Queue	288
Trouble Ahead in Thibet	288
Local Sport	289
Public Companies:—	
Canton Insurance Office Limited	290
Humphreys Estate and Finance Company	290
The North China Insurance Co., Limited	290
Siam Commercial Bank	290
Interport Shooting	291
The Stranding of the "Hailan"	291
More Undesirables	291
Volunteer Camp	292
Camp Notes	292
A Suspicious-Looking "Bundle"	292
Impending Departure of a Prominent Sportsman	292
The Death-Roll of Korean Insurgents	292
The Question of China's Currency	292
Conditions in the Philippines	293
Canton News	293
The North River Flood	295
Correspondence:—	
Rootless Nurseries at Kowloon	296
An Interesting Debate	296
An Emigration Story	296
Kidnapped	296
Distinguished Chinese Visitor	296
Japan's Campaign Against the Formosan Tribes	296
Reclamation of Sea-Front at Chemulpo	296
A Crying Evil	297
Shanghai Trade	297
Supreme Court	297
Commercial	300
Shipping	302

BIRTHS.

On October 10th, at Anping, Formosa, the wife of H. W. ARTHUR, of a daughter, (Una Elizabeth.)

On the 22nd October, at South Face, Beacon Hill Tunnel, the wife of FREDERICK SOUTHEY, A.M.I.C.E., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE

On the 8th October, at Hongkong, ALEXANDER COLBOURNE LITTLE, F.R.I.B.A. of the Public Works Department, to CHRISTINE DAVIDSON WILSON, only daughter of RICHARD GIBB, J.P., and Mrs. GIBB of Bishopbriggs, N.B.

DEATHS.

On 19th October 1908, at No. 1 Lyttleton Road, Hongkong, MADAME E. RICCO, aged 42 years.

On 19th September, 1908, in England, EDMUND HAMILTON SHARP, Trustee of the late GRANVILLE SHARP.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German mail arrived per a.s. *Kleist* on the 22nd inst.

The French mail of the 25th September arrived per a.s. *Tourane* on the 26th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Cases of cholera are reported at Fusan in Korea and at Moji and Kuchinotsu in Japan.

Arrangements are under consideration for establishing an Anglo-Chinese postal service between India and Lhasa.

The Foochow winter race meeting has been fixed for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the 14th, 15th and 16th December.

Japan papers report that there is consternation everywhere in Japan over the prohibition of the pari-mutuel at race meetings.

It is proposed to strike ten million one-tael coins next year at the Tientsin Government Mint, and to call in from circulation the silver dollars by degrees.

Mr. H. B. Ollerdesen has been elected captain of the Shanghai Recreation Club's football team and Mr. R. J. S. Brandt vice-captain for the ensuing season.

The post-mortem examination of the remains of Captain A. Renaud, of the dredger engaged in the Conservancy works at Shanghai, revealed no trace of arsenical poisoning.

Japan's notification of her intention to reduce the Japanese force in China by upwards of one half has gratified China. The intimation is regarded as evidence of a change in Japanese policy.

The Powers who will be represented at the International Anti-Opium Conference which will be held in Shanghai at the beginning of next year will be America, Britain, France, Holland China and Japan.

Souvenir cloisonné cups are to be presented to the American sailors at Amoy. A Chinese contemporary says they are exceedingly pretty and will certainly form a unique reminder of an occasion which comes but once in a lifetime.

The T. K. K. "Tenyo Maru" left Shanghai at 7 p.m. on Wednesday the 21st inst., and arrived at Hongkong at 4.30 p.m. Friday the 23rd inst., making the trip in 45½ hours, or a speed of a trifle better than 18 miles an hour.

The marriage took place at Kobe, on October 10, of Mr. A. Whitworth Allen of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to Miss B. Lucas, youngest daughter of Mr. H. Lucas, one of Kobe's oldest residents. The bride is a sister of Mrs. Barton of Amoy who was present at the wedding with her two children Mabel and Campbell.

The gentry of Fukien have raised the sum of Taels 4,000,000 to open a Bank which has been consented to by the Board of Finance, but recently, says a Chinese contemporary, it has come to light that some foreign shareholders are also interested. Some high officials have accordingly wired enquiries on the matter.

The coming naval review at Kobe is definitely announced for the 17th of November. His Majesty the Emperor will come down from Nara to Maiko on the preceding day, and arrive at Kobe on the morning of the 17th, when he will embark on the cruiser "Asama."

Consul H. B. Layard, of Honolulu, is expected in Manila this month to assume the duties of British Consul General at that port, vice Mr. W. J. Kenny, retired. Since the retirement of the Consul-General the office in Manila has been in charge of the vice-Consul, Mr. Hugh Horne.

The Yokohama Amateur Dramatic Club are rehearsing "Dorothy."

As a precaution against the further spread of cholera in Manila through the medium of prohibited vegetables, it has been decided to destroy all the Chinese and Filipino truck gardens in which such vegetables are grown within the city limits and to indemnify their owners for their loss.

The Wai Wu Pu has presented a memorial to the Throne on behalf of the Chinese Commissioner investigating Constitutional law in Great Britain, H. E. Wang Ts Shieh, enclosing a set of books on English Constitutional law translated into Chinese. An Edict has been issued commanding that the books shall be sent to the Constitutional Bureau.

Grand Councillor Yuan Shih-kai at one of the recent conferences urged that lotteries should be prohibited, as gambling at the very best, notwithstanding the fact that the promoters generally pay a certain royalty to the imperial exchequer, is always a source of evil. The majority of his colleagues endorsed his views, but it has been decided that the Viceroy and the Governors should be first consulted before the Government issues any definite instructions.

To commemorate the birthday of the Empress Dowager among sailors of the American Fleet an interesting souvenir has been designed and completed by Shanghai workmanship, says the *Mercury*. It takes the form of a fan, on one side of which is a print of the Nan Pu-To Temple at Amoy, and on the other representations of the Chinese and American flags. On this side is also printed the menu of a Chinese dinner with which the men are to be entertained, commencing with bird's nest soup, and going through a list of over half a dozen Chinese delicacies. It is intended that 5,000 men will sit down to the dinner, and each will receive a fan.

Dr. Dominador Gomez has been sentenced to pay a fine of two thousand pesos and costs and imprisonment in case of insolvency, at Manila for having in his possession a large quantity of morphine. One of his confederates, Estanislao Carballo, was sentenced to pay a fine of P500 on the same charge and the others charged with like offences were acquitted. The other charges against Gomez and his confederates were dismissed for lack of sufficient proof on the part of the Government that an illegal use was made of the morphine found in possession of the accused. Dr. Gomez at once gave notice of appeal from the decision to the Supreme Court.

The Swatow correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* writes.—The German community at this port is determined to make itself felt in the development of the new China. Recently it collected sufficient money to send a batch of lads to the German Medical School at Shanghai, lads who had learned German in the Mission School at Kiating; and now a dispatch from Fu appears in the papers setting forth the existence of a German-Chinese Society in Berlin, promoted by the Deutsch-Asiatic Society, for the care of Chinese students proceeding to Germany for study. Both objects are praiseworthy, and it is only a pity that other nations, who have institutions similar to the Berlin organization, do not secure the help of the magistrates in making them known. It is not impossible that such societies could secure a corresponding member in every port, to whom intending students could apply for information.

TIBET.

(Daily Press, October 17th.)

DR. SVEN HEDIN, who is now on his way to Europe after spending many months in Tibet, is reported to make no secret of his belief that the domination of Tibet by the Chinese will effectually destroy British influence in that country. He considers that it will cost several millions of pounds to regain the prestige which he believes to be totally lost in consequence of the arrangement whereby China assumed responsibility for the payment of the YOUNGHUSBAND war indemnity which brought about the British evacuation of the Chumbi Valley. The Chumbi Valley, no doubt, from a geographical point of view really belongs to India. Great Britain, however, has always recognised China's sovereignty in Tibet. The Chinese, Dr. SVEN HEDIN says, have reaped all the advantages of the YOUNGHUSBAND Mission and "a future mission of the same sort will mean, not a military promenade across the Himalayas, but war with China." The Allahabad Pioneer says this view coincides with that expressed by all who have had knowledge of Tibetan politics and of the measures which the Peking Government are taking to reduce Tibet to the level of an ordinary Chinese province. The Government at Peking has certainly been taking measures to strengthen the very shadowy authority it has in recent years exercised over Tibet, but we cannot see in this any cause for alarm, having regard to the agreement negotiated with China little more than two years ago. In the minds of the British Government there was no idea of a permanent occupation of the Chumbi Valley at the time of the YOUNGHUSBAND Mission, and although Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND, in negotiating a Convention with the Tibetan authorities, made a stipulation that British troops should occupy the Chumbi Valley until the completion of the indemnity payments, which were spread over a period of seventy-five years, the Imperial Government showed no hesitation in modifying this and agreeing to the evacuation as soon as China made herself responsible for the fulfilment of all the other terms of the Convention. What Great Britain desired was that Tibet should recognise the validity and carry into full effect the provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and the Trade Regulations which were agreed upon three years later. As a result of the British advance to Lhasa, the Tibetan authorities, by a Convention, bound themselves to do this, and a great deal more, which the Chinese Government subsequently confirmed, and expressly undertook to secure the fulfilment of the terms of the Convention. While Great Britain has engaged not to annex Tibetan territory or to interfere in the internal administration of Tibet, the Government of China has undertaken not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Tibet. Russia, moreover, has formally recognised that Great Britain, "by reason of her geographical position," has a special interest in the maintenance of the *status quo* in the external relations of Tibet. She has also engaged on her part to respect the territorial integrity of Tibet and to abstain from all interference in its internal administration. We can therefore see no reason for contemplating a future British military expedition to Tibet for the purpose of securing the fulfilment of existing agreements. China is not likely, we think, to provoke a war by disregarding her Treaty obligations in Tibet. If any trouble is destined to arise in that part of the world the danger rather lies in China

intriguing to recover her waning influence in Nepal, which for more than a century was a tributary of the Chinese Government. The recent visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to Peking has a strong significance in this connection, but it is hoped in India that the Government at the first sign of any meddling with the States South of the Himalayas will make it clear that there is a limit to Chinese aspirations in that region.

THE REVIVAL OF ROMANISM IN ENGLAND.

(Daily Press, October 19th.)

There has been no event in England in recent times of greater significance than the holding of the Eucharistic Congress in London. The growth of Roman Catholicism in England during the last half century has been enormous. FROUDE, the historian, in one of his Essays recalls that in his boyhood the Roman Catholic religion hung about a few ancient English families like a ghost of the past. "They preserved their creed as an heirloom which tradition rather than conviction made sacred to them. A convert from Protestantism to Popery would have been as great a monster as a convert to Buddhism or Odin." In the course of a single century what a change has been effected! Not only in England is this the case. While the influence and power of the Roman Church has been perceptibly weakening in countries which had long been exclusively her own, it has been steadily rising in the countries which have constituted the stronghold of Protestantism in Europe. Such a striking manifestation of the revival of Romanism as the holding of a Eucharistic Congress in London must have set most thoughtful minds speculating not only as to the causes which have produced so remarkable a change, but also upon the final significance of the movement. These are questions, however, which in a single article can only be briefly touched upon. We can here only suggest that the causes may be found, on the one hand, in the growth of a materialistic philosophy breathing a spirit of indifference to all religious forms and ceremonies, and on the other to that increasing love of ritual in the Church of England which brings it daily into closer affinity with the Church of Rome. For good or ill, the advance of Roman Catholicism in England is destined to continue. There has been no great ebullition of national feeling over the holding of the Eucharistic Congress such as might have been expected perhaps, when we remember our English history, and the confidence of the Pope in British tolerance has been fully justified. Had the authorities in charge of the Congress arrangements not committed an error of judgment in arranging for a procession of the Host through the streets adjoining the Roman Cathedral at Westminster, contrary to the provisions of the Emancipation Act of 1829, the world might have been left in some doubt as to whether Protestantism had not ceased to be a force to be reckoned with in England. FROUDE, in the Essay to which allusion has already been made warned the English people that "Catholicism has learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. It is tolerant now because its strength is broken. It has been fighting for bare existence, and its demands at present are satisfied with fair play. But let it (he says) have a numerical majority behind it and it will reclaim its old authority. It will again insist on controlling all departments of knowledge. The principles on which it

persecuted it still professes, and persecution will grow again as naturally and necessarily as a seed in a congenial soil. Then it will once more come in collision with the secular intelligence which now passes by it with disdain. The struggle ended in blood before; and it will end in blood again, with further results not difficult to anticipate." It is noteworthy that there appears to have been an entire absence of any such forebodings in the comments on the Congress which have appeared in the great organs of British public opinion which may be said to represent what the historian calls the "secular intelligence." While it is true that since FROUDE published this impressive warning the revival of Romanism in England has made astonishing progress, we are inclined to believe that the essential principles of the Reformation are so deeply rooted in England as to make the prospect of any conflict of the Roman Catholic Church with the secular intelligence extremely remote.

JAPAN AND PARI-MUTUEL.

(Daily Press, October 20th.)

Immediately prior to the visit of the American Fleet to Japan the topic of most lively interest, judging by the translations the English papers give from the vernacular press, was the prohibition of the pari-mutuel at race meetings. We believe we are correct in saying that five years ago there was not more than one race club in Japan—the Nippon Race Club at Yokohama. In recent years Japanese race clubs have sprung up like mushrooms, with the direct encouragement of the Government. It appears that horse-racing with the pari-mutuel as a feature was actually the outcome of a suggestion by the KATSURA Government a few years ago and the system was endorsed by the succeeding Government led by Marquis SAIONJI. Now that Marquis KATSURA is in power again he has been forced to smother his own child. We say forced advisedly, for the prohibition of the pari-mutuel does not appear to have been the willing act of the Executive. Indeed, only a fortnight before the prohibition was issued, the Prime Minister informed a deputation representing the race clubs that the Government had no intention of abolishing the pari-mutuel, but that some steps would be taken for better regulation. The Government, however, has been forced to follow the Judiciary in the matter. The Judiciary demanded its total abolition on the ground that its operations were contrary to law. On the 1st inst. a new Criminal Code came into operation. Under the old Code the law against gambling, as it is translated into English, is in these words: "Persons who have actually gambled, putting valuable stakes, shall be punished with major confinement above one month but under six months, with a fine above five yen but under fifty yen." Under the new Code the law is that "Whoever shall have played, bet, or wagered a valuable thing as a stake with regard to a matter depending upon chance or contingency, shall be punished with an ordinary fine not exceeding one thousand yen, or police fine. This provision does not, however, apply to a case where a mere article of momentary amusement or pleasure is wagered." And the next article in the Code provides that "Whoever shall have made a regular practice of wagering or gaming shall be punished with penal servitude for a period not exceeding three years." We are unable to

see that the change in the law has created any material difference. If the pari-mutuel is a gamble under the new Code, it was equally so under the old. When the Government sanctioned the introduction of the pari-mutuel either the fact was overlooked that it was contrary to law, or the view was taken that the law provided a loophole of escape for a form of betting which is permitted at Hongkong, Shanghai, and other places where the general law against gambling is as comprehensive as the law of Japan. We observe that a correspondent writes over the signature of "Anti-gambler" a long letter to one of our Yokohama correspondents in which he attempts to demonstrate that the purchase of a ticket in the pari-mutuel is not more of a gambling transaction than are most business transactions. He lays it down that the amount of chance that exists in picking out a horse which will gallop faster than other known horses over a given distance is equal to the amount of chance, say, which the investor in shares encounters when he buys for a rise. As the purchaser of a pari-mutuel ticket on a certain horse, he says, has certain facts before him, such as the previous performances of the same horse, the nature of the performances of the horses that are to run against it, the length of the course, the weight the horses are to carry, the nature of the course, the ability of the jockey, and the then condition of the horse, so has the purchaser of certain shares supposed to have some idea as to the condition of the industry in which he is investing his money, the amount of competition, the ability of the directorate, the general state of trade, and various other matters. If it is claimed that none of these matters are taken into consideration by the ordinary purchaser of a pari-mutuel ticket, so it may equally be claimed that the ordinary investor does not give much consideration to the matters stated above. It is perfectly true, as the correspondent avers, that in every transaction of life we are dependent more or less on chance. The investor spends, perhaps, thousands of pounds on producing a new article on the chance of it selling; the merchant imports goods on the chance of making a profit; and until the Socialist millennium is reached we shall not eliminate the gambling spirit from the human race. There is no getting away from the fact that the same line of reasoning which declares it illegal for a man to bet on a horse when he has good reason to think it will win must likewise condemn as illegal the marginal transactions which daily take place on the Stock Exchanges. But the practice has grown up among Governments to differentiate in this matter between the chance of sport and the chance of business, and in Japan it is not to be expected that the powers that be will show themselves more severely logical in this matter than are the authorities in other countries.

The object aimed at in encouraging the formation of the race clubs was the improvement of the breed of horses, and the pari-mutuel was no doubt sanctioned as an inducement to get the general public to take an interest in horses. Experience in the war with China as well as in the war with Russia demonstrated the necessity for improving the breed of horses for military purposes, but it is doubtful whether on the whole the race clubs have served that purpose. It seems clear that some of them have been established more with a view to the profit to be derived from dishonest management of the pari-mutuel and this has given the Judiciary a strong argument for the abolition of the system.

THE WELCOME TO AMERICA'S FLEET.

(Daily Press, 21st October.)

A Japanese writer recently remarked that people in Japan who had read of the magnificent reception accorded to the American Fleet in Australasia were somewhat saddened by the thought of how insignificant in comparison must be the welcome which Japan could hope to accomplish in the way of demonstrating her appreciation of the visit. We have very little doubt that Admiral SPERRY and his officers have by this time had ample proof that in the warmth of their hospitality, as well as in the completeness of their arrangements to welcome the Fleet, the people of Japan have no reason to be saddened by the comparison. The telegrams we have published from our correspondent in Tokyo go to show that the Fleet has been welcomed with the liveliest enthusiasm, not only by the officials, military, naval and civil, but by the general mass of the people. On the Reception Committee, of which Admiral SARTO, the Minister of the Navy, is the Chairman, there are representatives of Commerce and Literature as well as of the Naval, Military and Civil authorities, and the whole scheme of entertainment, especially when we learn that a large part of the expense is borne by the contributions of the public, afford eloquent testimony of the warmth of the welcome. There has been nothing to equal this display of hospitality in the history of the nation, if we exclude the welcome extended to the troops when they returned victorious from the war with China in 1895 and again on the return of the far larger number of troops from the scene of their triumphs over the forces of the Tsar.

Tokyo Bay must have presented a grand sight on Sunday morning when the imposing ships of America's navy received the greeting of the scarcely less imposing Japanese fleet which had been detailed to welcome the visitors on their arrival. As soon as the salutes were over Admiral SPERRY's flagship was provided with telephonic communication with the shore, and the fraternisation between visitors and hosts began. Admiral SPERRY and his principal officers, as soon as possible, proceeded to Tokyo to pay their respects to the representatives of the State and they appear to have met with a popular welcome which can hardly have been surpassed in Australia or New Zealand. His MAJESTY the EMPEROR extended to the Commander-in-chief and the nine principal Officers under him the hospitality of the Detached Imperial Palace at Shiba, while the Government reserved thirty-three bedrooms at the Imperial Hotel for other officers above the rank of captain and provided a carriage for the use of each. Railway passes were granted to officers and men and special trains for their accommodation are being run daily during the stay of the fleet. The tramway companies in Tokyo and Yokohama fell into line with the railway companies, while both in the port and in the capital the arrangements seem to omit nothing that could well be thought of as contributing to the convenience, pleasure and enjoyment of the American visitors. An incessant round of entertainment is provided for both officers and men, and by the time the visit comes to an end the visitors will have had "a real good time" which one and all are likely to long remember as much on account of the open-hearted hospitality of their hosts as on account of the striking novelty of the treats provided for them.

China does not mean, if it can help it, to be less demonstrative than Japan in wel-

coming the great American Fleet. Money has been granted without stint for the purpose and the arrangements for the entertainment of officers and men at Amoy are on an elaborate scale. An Imperial Prince is coming from Peking to Amoy to welcome the Fleet and altogether the reception will be something unique in the history of China; and doubtless on that account all the more pleasing to Admiral SPERRY and the nation he represents. Peace in the Pacific will doubtless be the tenor of the speeches. It is a little puzzling to understand the meaning of it. All the Fleets in the Pacific wish to be regarded as policemen. Who among them is the burglar? Perhaps it is correct to say that each considers the other a potential burglar!

INDIAN ASPIRATIONS.

(Daily Press, 22nd October.)

The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA is reported to have been engaged recently in the elaboration of a Reform Bill for India, "which will give practical effect to his Liberal principles." We do not know whether this statement has been made with authority, but there will be no difficulty in accepting the report as very likely to be correct. Though LORD MORLEY has acted with the necessary firmness and strength in the presence of wide-spread sedition, no one can doubt that he of all statesmen would be only too ready to study with sympathy the real or imaginary grievances of the people. At a time when one is hearing of a Constitution for Persia and a Constitution for Turkey, and a Constitution for China, it is not surprising to hear also of a demand by Indian agitators for a Constitution for India. According to common report, however, LORD MORLEY has no intention of granting a Constitution to India, but he is credited with the intention of making practical provision for the introduction of representatives of the governed in all the governing bodies of India. That seems to be practical statesmanship. The new movement in India must claim sympathetic attention from the Government. "It would be a mistake," said Sir MACKWORTH YOUNG, ex-Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, speaking at the Pan Anglican Conference, "to regard what is going on in India as a phase which will pass. Some of the extravagances will pass, and the sooner the better; but what is happening is a development, not a phase, a new birth, not a sickness. The proof of that is in its universal acceptance by all classes in India itself. It is not merely the Bengalee agitator or the Mahratta plotter, the Mahomedan student in London or Aligarh, and the educated Jat of the Punjab, but every intelligent person who has a new idea of nationality, a new vision of liberty." There is no doubt that the situation calls for the exercise of the wisest statesmanship. No one recognises better than LORD MORLEY that the Government cannot smother popular aspirations, nor does it seek to do so in India, but for the time being the sedition-mongers have made it necessary for the Government to show that it is not to be frightened nor cajoled into the position of practically abandoning the government of India. The firm grip has been necessary and is not likely to be relaxed until treason and sedition ceases to be preached in the press or upon the hustings. While the campaign lasts it can only be regarded as evidence of the unfitness of the agitators for any measure of local self-government. It would be the greatest folly imaginable for the Imperial Government to place power in

the hands of such men, and the surprising thing about the seditious movement in India is that men of the stamp of TILAK do not realise the utter futility, the suicidal tendency of the methods they adopt. But newspapers in India conducted by the modernised native continue to tell us that what the Government calls sedition cannot be killed by repression, which begets only hypocrisy and guarded language. The Government can hardly have been fatuous enough to conceive that its repressive laws would eradicate the poison of sedition from the minds in which it had already settled: what was hoped for, and what is being accomplished, is that the measures adopted would stop the communication of the poison to the minds of the multitudes who are unaffected by the virus. The Moderates in India still hope, as their organ expresses, that Lord MORLEY will yet so act that the future historian of his lordship's régime may not have to write of it in the language of irreverent parody:—"In its beginning was the Promise, and the Promise was with MORLEY and the Promise was MORLEY. The same was in the end with MORLEY." That must depend very largely indeed on the attitude of the people of India themselves. If the report be true that Lord MORLEY has elaborated a Reform Bill for India it is good evidence of his intention to fulfil the expectations of reformers in India who welcomed his advent to the India Office. Until, however, the preaching of sedition in India has entirely ceased it is only to be expected that the Bill will remain in its pigeon-hole.

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY.

(Daily Press, October 23rd.)

It has for some years become almost an article of faith in England that the Foreign Affairs of the nation are in safe hands when entrusted to the care of Sir EDWARD GREY. Sir EDWARD GREY has almost hereditary claims to high office being grandson of Sir GEORGE GREY, four times Secretary of State for Home Affairs, commencing with the first ministry of Lord JOHN RUSSELL in 1846, and closing under the same chief twenty years later. Sir EDWARD GREY, it may be remembered, was Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs under GLADSTONE in 1892, when he gained the confidence of the Empire at large by refusing to be dictated to by his chief, as the latter, he thought, was bent on pursuing a line of policy incompatible with the general trend of public opinion. There is little doubt that his general common sense has been largely instrumental in reconciling the country to the continuance in office of the present Government, which, notwithstanding its numerical majority in the House of Commons, has been long felt to be completely out of touch with the country at large. Whether Sir EDWARD GREY will be handed down to posterity as a model Foreign Minister may be a moot point, which only the future can prove. At all events there is no failure to be charged to his tenure of office, up to the present at least, and the prestige of England in this respect has suffered little diminution. In all this he has enjoyed the inestimable advantage of having obtained the unswerving support of his Sovereign, while KING EDWARD is himself a *persona grata* in all the Continental Courts. Notwithstanding all this, and the fact that the British Foreign Office has, by its abstention from all Continental intrigues, contrived to gain the respect of all, it is not to be denied that in the East, along the entire line, we have been

losing prestige. However Orientals admire virtue in the abstract, there is no doubt that practice impresses them more, and that of all other things they have the highest respect for tangible power. Now our needlessly paraded abstention from all open display of power: our withdrawal of our fleets, our reduction of our army, and our general belauding of peace without any consideration of the means by which it is to be attained; do not strike the Oriental imagination as the outcome of any comprehensible virtue; rather they seem to him a mere exhibition of weakness. How far Sir EDWARD GREY has been answerable for our Oriental failures it is, of course, impossible to tell; and this lends enhanced importance to the present posture of affairs in the Balkan peninsula.

It is not to be denied that the position there is fraught with danger, and that a false step may be followed by a war, which may seriously compromise the position of Great Britain as a European Power of the first magnitude. Up to this all sides have acknowledged the disinterestedness of England's action, and the British Foreign Office has it in its power to restore much of its lost prestige. The present Sultan ABDUL HAMED has never been a friend to the British Government, nor the English people; and our Foreign Office has more than once had to remonstrate strongly with him on his treatment of affairs, which, it has not hesitated to tell him, were bringing the country into dangerous waters. The Foreign Office wisely held aloof from any of the intrigues which have characterised the later years of his reign, and beyond pressing on his government the necessity of introducing order into Macedonia, and aiding in the establishment of a gendarmerie to put down the contesting clans, has carefully abstained from interference. The establishment of the gendarmerie with its well ordered and well paid staff has, however, a curious effect on the Turkish army. It was through no fault of the officers or men that affairs had been permitted to come to such a stage—the army was literally in a state verging on starvation, and the soldiers were forced, through the extravagance of the SULTAN and his ministers, to live on the country as best they could. The appearance alongside them of the well-paid and well-fed gendarmerie was too much for mortal men; and as SULTAN HAMED would do nothing for them, they determined to join the Young Turkey party in demanding reforms. The SULTAN yielded to necessity, dismissed his obnoxious ministers, and appointed SAID PASHA, a progressive, and former Grand Vizier, to fill the vacant post. SAID PASHA at once demanded a parliament, and constitutional government, which SULTAN HAMED, seeing the impossibility of carrying on on the old lines without creating a rebellion, wisely granted. The reforming party, wise in their generation, refrained from committing any disorder, and the change which they felt themselves strong enough to enforce was carried without any outward act of a revolutionary character. The country was in fact for once unanimous, and the Sultan could not find a single backer in his reactionary policy. The British Government thereupon declared that it was quite willing to abandon its policy of outside control in Macedonia, and trust to the new government; and this with other indications of goodwill at once produced an entire revolution in the feelings of the people at large towards England, whose conduct, all acknowledged, had been throughout perfectly disinterested.

It is now perfectly well known in Turkey that Great Britain, though she declined to

be drawn into any expression of opinion which might be interpreted as hostile to the government of Turkey, was yet quite in sympathy with the reforming element, and, could the affair be arranged without disturbance, would gladly accept the position, and the general wisdom of the course adopted is now acknowledged by all. The consequence of all this is that the feeling towards England has undergone a marked change for the better. Much remains, of course, to be done in Turkey; and England, if she act in an unbiassed way, keeping in view the best interests of the Turkish people, will be able to do much. Up to this she has succeeded in steering her course satisfactorily to all, but recent events have complicated affairs. Were the subject a mere question between Turkey and Bulgaria, the task would be comparatively easy, but Austria by claiming to throw off the suzerainty of Turkey, and annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Dual Monarchy has succeeded in complicating affairs. It was hoped at the time of the Treaty of Berlin that Turkey had, at last, reached her lowest point, so the Powers agreed to place the administration of these provinces in Austrian hands retaining for Turkey the over-lordship. The action of Austro-Hungary, at the moment too when Turkey is about reasserting herself, and claiming to enter as a constitutional monarchy the European conclave, seems particularly inconvenient. The step, can hardly be accepted without some imaginary demand for "compensation" by Italy and Russia, whilst over all impends Germany with obscure, yet persistent, claims to Pan-Germany. England is almost the only Power who can view affairs with a practically disinterested eye, but who only yet, whatever side she may take, is sure to raise up enemies amongst the contending claimants. The situation is one demanding the highest qualities of statesmanship, and everything will depend on whether Sir EDWARD GREY will prove equal to the task.

HONGKONG'S OPIUM REVENUE AND THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

(Daily Press, 24th October.)

It is evident from the REUTER'S telegram we published a day or two ago that the Anti-Opium League, of which Mr. TAYLOR, M.P., is a shining light, is becoming restive under the delay which has occurred in Hongkong in giving effect to the Imperial Government's urgent instructions to the Governor to take steps for the closing of "the opium dens" in the Colony. By asking a question in the House of Commons on the subject Mr. TAYLOR displays an anxiety that the Government should not permit itself to wink at any protracted neglect to carry out the policy indicated in the statement on the subject made to the House of Commons early in May last by Colonel SEELY, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. The reply given to Mr. TAYLOR is not a little interesting when contrasted with the declarations made to the House of Commons in May. Colonel SEELY, in answering Mr. TAYLOR'S question said the EARL OF CREWE was now considering the proposals made by Sir FREDERICK LUGARD and the Government hoped shortly to come to a decision on the subject. Colonel SEELY'S declaration in the House of Commons on the 10th of May that the Government would not recede from the position that "we must act up to the standard set by the Chinese Government" can leave us in no doubt that the Government intends to

adhere to the decision to close the so-called opium dens. China having set the example, it is only a question as to how soon Hongkong is to follow it. It would be interesting to know further whether the Imperial Government place any limitations on the declaration that in dealing with the opium question "we must act up to the standard set by the Chinese Government." Does this commit the Colonial Government to the policy or practice of treating opium-smokers virtually as convicted criminals, as the Chinese authorities are doing in Canton? In the metropolis of South China every individual who smokes opium is required to obtain a license from the police authorities, and, as if to emphasise the criminality of the act of smoking, he is required to carry with him wherever he goes a wooden badge, similar to those worn by convicted criminals. The smoker is apparently spared the indignity of wearing the badge about his neck, as the convicted criminals do: he may carry it in his pocket or up his sleeve so long as he is ready to produce it immediately it is demanded for inspection by a policeman or a licensed retailer of opium who is required to register on it, on pain of forfeiture of his license to retail, the quantity purchased by the unhappy victim of police surveillance. We can hardly suppose that the Imperial Government intends to emulate the Chinese Government in this respect, though the declaration made in the House of Commons by the Under Secretary on May 10th seems to commit the Government to any interference with the liberty of the opium-smoking subject. Be it noted that the Chinese authorities are going much further than the mere closing of the so-called opium dens. They are, as we have said, requiring all smokers to take out licenses, renewable annually, which show how much each smoker is entitled to purchase per day, and each year the license is renewed the smoker's allowance of opium is to be reduced until the quantity reaches the vanishing point. Is this example which is being set by China in the neighbouring province to be followed in Hongkong? If so it means that we shall be required not only to sacrifice a large part of our revenue but add appreciably to our expenditure, as we presume the present police staff is hardly adequate to give the supervision that would be necessary.

The great interest the subject possesses for the majority in the Colony is the bearing it has on local taxation. Only by what is virtually a loan of \$400,000 is the Colony able to balance its estimated expenditure in the coming year, and if, as seems certain, we have to sacrifice in the coming year a large part of our opium revenue, there is but one alternative to a reduction or remission of the military contribution—and that is increased taxation. In his Budget speech, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR recognised that it would be unwise to impose additional taxation, and Sir FREDERICK had not made up his mind that the Colony could reasonably ask for a reduction of the military contribution. In this connection it is interesting to learn that the Colony of Mauritius is financially embarrassed, and a Mauritius contemporary says it has become known that the Governor (Sir CAVENDISH BOYLE) has written a dispatch to the Secretary of State recommending that the military contribution be remitted for a period of two years, "and also that the salary attached to his own post be reduced from R75,000 to R50,000." We do not press this example of personal sacrifice upon H.E. the GOVERNOR, but draw attention to the recommendation for

a remission of the military contribution as an example Hongkong might follow. Mauritius pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its annual revenue plus R35,000 from the Colonial Treasury to the military authorities in lieu of Customs rebate. Hongkong pays 20 per cent. In other words Mauritius pays in all about £28,000 annually, while Hongkong pays about £125,000. Mauritius comprises an area of 705 square miles; the total area of Hongkong and the New Territory is 300 square miles. In population there is no great difference, and the strength of the garrison in Mauritius is about equal to that of Hongkong. Finally, the revenue of Hongkong is a little over four million dollars; while the revenue of Mauritius is twice that amount (a little over ten million rupees). Yet the Government exacts from Hongkong a military contribution of 20% and is satisfied with 5½% from Mauritius. If financial difficulties in Mauritius are deemed to justify an application to the Imperial Government for a remission of a military contribution which does not exceed 5½ per cent. of the revenue, we may well ask, in the circumstances, for the disproportionate military contribution exacted from this Colony to be reduced to an extent corresponding to the drop in the opium revenue which compliance with the Imperial Government's instructions will entail. On what ground is a contribution of 20 per cent. demanded from Hongkong when only 5½ per cent. is paid by Mauritius? We see no sufficient reason for this enormous difference.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Good luck to our cricketers who have gone to Shanghai to uphold the reputation of Hongkong at the cricket. They had a quiet send off of Friday, and I trust they will not spend too much time feeding the fishes. We want them to make a good show, and retrieve the loss we sustained at shooting.

Shooting men are proverbial grumblers, but they had some grounds for feeling disgusted at the way the Weather Clerk frowned on all attempts to bring off the shooting in the interport competition. Typhoons upset all fixtures, and the last day within the time limit could not pass without the signals being hoisted. An extension was granted, but when the Hongkong marksmen lay down at the King's Park range on Friday a black pall overhung the sky, and with such a gloomy foreboding it was impossible to do well at the targets. However, better luck next time.

There are a number of Cadets in Victoria Jail—Don't misunderstand me, dear reader, they are not prisoners. They have gone there to reside with the Assistant Superintendent, and are a jolly bachelor party. Among other chattels they have a gramophone and a selection of excellent records. Almost any day in the week a good song or a band march can be heard either without or within the iron bars. I heard a Police Court habitué suggest that the music must charm the prisoners. "No doubt," replied a policeman "This is the reason why there are so many larcenies. The Chinese know they can't gain admission to an everlasting concert unless they distinguish themselves."

The note "Court Dress," has been responsible for some little misgiving among those who have had the honour to receive invitations to the Birthday Ball. Ladies were appalled at the prospect of having to brave their husbands' wrath by asking for an entirely different costume to the beautiful creation they had just got sent up, and gentlemen felt a little uneasy at the thought of knee-breeches, silk stockings and buckled shoes—reminiscent as it was of good little boys at Sunday School. Chinese tailors, I believe, had got their premises specially prepared to permit of—a hem!—unmentionables being fitted

on during the tiffin interval, but the supply of silk stockings was not so easily met, though several gentlemen—ah, that is strictly private and wild horses would not drag from me what I was about to say. But I may mention, with the necessary reservation, the report that the properties belonging to the Amateur Dramatic Club have already been ransacked for "calves."

Some little comment, I am told, was caused at the Peak last week at the appearance outside the tram station of a notice put up by the Police authorities requesting the public not "to retain or detain" the public chairs on Tuesdays as they are needed for conveying guests to the weekly tennis parties at Mountain Lodge. The notice was signed "By Order." It is to be hoped that it was "By Order" that the notice was obliterated on Tuesday morning. If the supply of chairs at the Peak on Tuesdays is insufficient to meet all requirements surely additions can be made to the number on such occasions.

I hear that the small Police Court, over which Mr. J. R. Wood presides, has acquired the designation of "Court of Discharges." Certainly his Worship is most humane to the Chinese offender, more so at times than is apparently necessary. "Go and sin no more," says the magistrate in effect, thereby paralysing the native who anticipates a term of imprisonment. But the leniency is misdirected, for the offender offends again. A case confirming this fact missed the reporters last week. A native with a dollar in his pocket went into Messrs. Sincere and Co.'s and asked to be shown some silk. The salesman placed a roll on the counter for his inspection. Having some other business to attend to in the meantime he left the man examining the silk. On his return he missed it from the counter, and detained the intending silk purchaser as he was leaving the shop. The salesman and two other witnesses swore that they saw the roll of silk taken from under the man's coat, but his Worship preferred to believe the defendant's story that he took it out to the light to examine it. Then the puzzled beak asked the defendant if he had any friends. Of course he had. He knew a man at Yaumati. A police officer was sent with the defendant across the water to find this friend. When they landed on the other side the defendant could not be bothered looking for his friend. He was not going to walk the streets with handcuffs on. When next placed before the Court the constable announced the result of the search. His Worship thought, it quite possible that the prisoner did not care to walk the streets in handcuffs and surprised both prisoner and police by discharging the former. Some days afterwards the same man was arrested by Inspector Robertson and convicted for the larceny of \$30. Had this man been committed in the first instance—and to all appearances the evidence was sufficiently strong—the second crime would not have been recorded. But the kind-hearted magistrate, in the magnanimity of his spirit, gave him the benefit of a doubtful doubt. However, he saw his mistake, and did not do it a second time.

Many readers may remember an interesting lecture which the Portuguese Minister at Peking gave to one of his nationals who was brought before him on a charge of gambling at Tientsin, and, as a punishment, the accused was deported to Macao, "the Monte Carlo of the East." What the Minister had to say about the laws of Portugal which regard gambling as a high crime and misdemeanor caused those who knew Macao to smile a broad smile. Evidently opinion on the subject is changing in Portugal. I see that Senhor A. Silva, a Government Deputy, has introduced into the Cortes a Bill legalising gambling. He proposes that a yearly tax of £800 be levied on every club, casino, or kursal which desires to add a gambling saloon to its attractions. The Civil Governor of Madeira has come expressly to Lisbon to confer with the Prime Minister on the subject. The Governor believes that legalised gambling in the island would be greatly beneficial not only to the inhabitants by reason of the numbers of visitors who would be attracted thereby, but that the Government themselves would reap a rich harvest.

Most people, I fancy, would consider that the suppression of gambling at Macao would be to the ultimate advantage of the Colony, for while the Colonial Treasury derives a considerable income from the gambling licences it is notorious that the temptations to gamble have served to keep many Chinese families from settling in the Colony.

Different conceptions of dignity have led to an interesting little conflict at Saigon Dock. Apparently the custom there, according to a southern newspaper, was that the native clerks and draftsmen should enter their names in a book as they went into their office, while the ordinary workmen were required to produce tickets to prove that they had been in attendance. The system, on the face of it, appeared to be quite sound and proper, but, as far as the clerks and draftsmen were concerned, it did not prove a sufficient safeguard against their genius for evasion. It was discovered that a good many of them were in the habit of absenting themselves without leave, and the signature book was no check, because some of the scrawls made therein to serve as signature were quite undecipherable. Accordingly, an order was made that the workmen's ticket system should be extended to the clerical staff. But this was a sad shock to the dignity of men who regard themselves as the "intellectuals" of the service. They would have none of the ticket system. Of the total of eighty-seven, no less than eighty decided to strike as a protest against the change, and they left work on September 14th. But the dock authorities were not overawed. They threatened the victims of wounded vanity with instant dismissal if they did not conform to the new rule in a given time, and in three days all the clerks and draftsmen had come to the conclusion that discretion is the better part of dignity. They are to be commended for that decision, and though "French leave" may be less common than formerly, there is no reason why they should feel deeply injured or depressed. They may be assured that there are many men of not less exalted station who do not shrink from giving whatever proof is asked for that they attend to their duties regularly.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The troopship "Soudan" arrived here on the 25th inst.

The French cruiser "Alger" arrived here on Saturday afternoon. The usual salutes were fired.

Sir Francis Pigott, the Chief Justice, has returned from his holiday in Japan.

Sentence of six months' imprisonment was on Oct. 19th passed on a Chinese for stealing money and goods to the value of \$1,370 from 25 Connaught Road West.

The name of Dr. H. S. Bennett has been added to the list of medical and surgical practitioners qualified to practise medicine and surgery in this Colony.

Before Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Supreme Court on Oct. 23 the Colonial Treasurer proceeded against a number of Chinese to recover amounts due for Crown rent. The claims totalled \$1,374, and judgment for this amount was entered against the various defendants.

The British Squadron returned to Hongkong on Oct. 25 from its summer cruise in Northern waters. The squadron comprises the "King Alfred" (flag-ship of Admiral Lambton), the "Bedford," "Monmouth" and Kent. The "Astrea" was already in port. The cruisers go out to Mirs Bay for battle practice this week.

Fears are dispelled concerning the safety of Captain Tom Groves, who, as previously reported in the *Daily Press*, left Hongkong for Manila in a steam tug during the last spell of typhoon weather. The captain and his crew have been through one of those trying experiences which fall to the lot of most sailors, and have fortunately kept above hatches. For five days the little tug was the sport of heavy seas, and during the last two of these anxious days the seamen were without food. Then their craft was washed ashore on the China coast, and after a long tramp the weary crew succeeded in getting a passage by the "Wing Hang" to Hongkong.

The police were yesterday informed of a fatal fight which took place on the Peak near Stewart Terrace in which a coolie was killed. The disputants were Hoklos and Cantonese and they fought with bamboo. The Hon. Mr. Gresson's coolies were, it is understood, the aggressors. Several arrests were made.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Lusitano Football Club it was unanimously decided to change its name to Lusitano Recreation Club. The following were elected to serve on the Committee for the season 1908-9: President, Mr. A. G. da Rocha; hon. secretary, Mr. C. M. C. V. Ribeiro; hon. treasurer, Mr. V. Barros; captain, Mr. A. J. C. V. Ribeiro; vice-captain, Mr. B. da Rosa; committee, Messrs. J. C. Barretto, J. M. Britto, C. F. Franco, J. O. Remedios, and P. M. Remedios.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was called on Oct. 25 for the purpose of considering the question of declaring No. 5 shed, Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam Road, to be infected with foot and mouth disease. There were present Mr. McL. Messer, Mr. Shelton Hooper, Hon. Mr. Irving and Dr. Pearce. The report of the Veterinary Surgeon (Dr. Gibson) was read, stating that nine cattle were infected. On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Irving, No. 5 shed was declared infected premises.

FAREWELL DINNER TO ADMIRAL AND MRS. STOKES.

His Excellency the Governor gave a farewell dinner to Rear Admiral and Mrs. Stokes on the 23rd inst. at Government House, to which the following guests were invited:—H. E. Colonel Darling, R.E., Hon. Mr. May, Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, Hon. Mr. Gompertz, Comdr. and Mde. Volpicelli, Inspector-General and Mrs. Tait, Colonel Dumbleton, R.E., Col. Glover, D.S.O. and Mrs. Glover, Sir Henry Berkeley, Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., Commander Ryan, R.N., Commander Heard, R.N., Commander Barrett, R.N., Commander Grenfell, R.N., Commander and Mrs. Penfold, R.N., Major and Mrs. Stephenson, Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, Captain Hart-Synnot, Mr. and Mrs. Peter, Lt. Commander J. Riddle, R.N., Lt. Blanchflower, R.N., Lt. Commander Walcott, R.N., Lt. Simson, R.A., Mrs. Freemantle, and Mrs. Basely.

The following were unavoidably prevented from attending:—Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Gresson, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. M. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hancock, Captain and Mrs. Wait.

His EXCELLENCY, in proposing the health of Admiral and Mrs. Stokes, spoke as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have asked you to dine to night as friends of Admiral and Mrs. Stokes, to bid them farewell. It was a bold thing to do, for I am well aware I shall incur the resentment of everyone who is not included to-night, for, I believe, there is no one in the Colony who does not claim to be their friend. Unfortunately the space at my disposal is limited, and I could only select the few to represent the many. It is a grievous thing to say farewell, and I am sure it is no less grievous to them than it is to us. In a long experience extending over nearly 20 years of administrative work, I have never met a man with whom it was a greater pleasure to do business than it has been with Admiral Stokes. Always courteous, always ready to do even more than was asked of him, always obliging, a man whose heart is too large to be capable of taking offence where none was meant. For my own part—and I think the Admiral will feel in this as I do—whenever the time has come for me to leave the sphere of work, whatever it might be, in which I was engaged I have always felt that I would far sooner know that I was leaving affection and regrets behind me, than a record of achievements however brilliant, mixed with a feeling of relief that I was going. That feeling of affection and regret is one which Admiral and Mrs. Stokes can be assured that they leave behind them when they say goodbye to Hongkong. And if I have spoken this of Admiral Stokes, what am I to say of the loss we are experiencing in losing Mrs. Stokes? Every class, from the humblest in this Colony, has

learned to rely on her ready sympathy, her kindness of heart, and her generosity. She will leave a gap amongst us which it will indeed be hard to fill. But we shall know that though she has left us, she is a friend who will not forget friendships once formed, and we shall hope that in the future we may meet again in Old England. It is the custom on occasions such as this to pay adulatory, and, sometimes fulsome compliments, and to deal in indiscriminate praise,—and it is a custom I detest. If I have seemed to use some superlatives it is because I feel them, and I am confident that I am expressing the feelings of everyone at this table. I will add for the relief of the Admiral that we do not expect any speech from him in reply to the few remarks I have made in introducing the toast which I am about to propose to you. Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to drink with me the health of Admiral and Mrs. Stokes, and to wish them success and happiness wherever they are and in whatever sphere they may be called upon to fill. ADMIRAL STOKES then briefly thanked His Excellency for the kind terms he had used towards them, and the guests for the toast with which they had honoured them.

SUICIDE OF A SHIP'S OFFICER.

When Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co's steamer "Cheong Shing" arrived in port on the 21st inst. the police signal was hoisted, and when the police boarded the vessel another case of suicide was reported to them. The "Cheong Shing" was returning from Tientsin, and had on board among others some 150 time-expired Cameron Highlanders who have been quartered at Kowloon until the arrival of the transport. The day before the vessel came into port the second engineer, Mr. D. M. Dickie, shot himself through the head with a revolver. The police found his body in the bunk, with a large calibre revolver lying beside it. The bullet had passed through his head, which was badly shattered. The suicide appears to have been premeditated, for on the table by the bunk an open note book was found in which deceased had written his brother's address. The cause of the rash act is unknown. Mr. Dickie was not in financial difficulties, and secured his appointment on the "Cheong Shing" only at the beginning of this month. His remains were interred in the Happy Valley Cemetery yesterday afternoon, when a number of the Cameron Highlanders followed the cortege.

DISCARDING THE QUEUE.

STRAITS CHINAMEN CONSIDER EUROPEAN COSTUME IS "THE" THING.

Orange Villa, Tai Jin Road, Singapore, the residence of Mr. Ngo Yam Bee, was, last week the scene of a queue cutting function. A number of young men were present, and the ceremony was performed on Mr. Koh Hoon Teck by Mr. Bong Kop Yan from Banka. With the queue Mr. Koh also discarded the Chinese costume, for after returning a little while he reappeared in full European costume and received the congratulations of his friends.

The function was enlivened by music, Mr. Koh who is the secretary of the Cornwall Minstrel Troupe, playing the violin. It appears that young Babadon has taken very kindly to the idea of discarding the appendage of servitude, but are withheld by compliance with the wishes of the conservative seniors of their respective families.—Free Press.

TROUBLE AHEAD IN THIBET.

The former Chinese Resident in Thibet, H. E. Lien Yu has forwarded a memorial to the Throne stating that the Thibetans are strongly opposed to the idea of converting Thibet into a province of the Empire. They are preparing to resist every measure which H. E. Chen Sheng, the new Chinese Amban will propose to that end and it is feared they will raise trouble in connection with the matter soon.

The Dalai Lama should be ordered to return to Thibet without delay for the purpose of preserving the peace there.—Chinese Public Opinion.

LOCAL SPORT.

SATURDAY'S GYMKHANA.

The Hongkong Volunteer Troop and the Gymkhana Club were "at home" to their friends on the Polo ground on Oct. 25th and royally they entertained them. The excellent music of the Middlesex Band, which played selections during the afternoon, was no more charming than the attention paid by the hosts of the afternoon to their guests. Although a trifle warm, better weather could not have been desired, and a large attendance had assembled before the arrival of His Excellency the Governor. Among others present were Sir Henry Berkeley, General Broadwood, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes, Sir Paul Chater and Colonel Darling. The lengthy programme of events, many of which afforded considerable amusement, was carried through without a hitch, and the events were kept well up to time. In the pony race to be ridden in pairs by ladies and gentlemen, a special prize was awarded Mrs. Gresson for the best descriptive name handed in for that event, which was the "Do be quick" race. Trooper Dupree carried off the handsome cup presented by Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes for the member of the Troop who scored most marks in events confined to the Troop, Trooper Master getting second prize. The energetic officials responsible for the successful arrangements of the afternoon were:

Judges: Captain Hart-Synnot, D.S.O., and Mr. J. A. Jupp;

Starter: Mr. H. P. White.

Committee: Messrs. C. H. Ross, C. H. Blason, W. S. Dupree, and E. F. C. Master, (Hon. Sec.)

Results of events follow:—

TENT PEGGING BY HALF SECTIONS. Two runs for all competitors after which the judges will call for further runs, if necessary.

Troopers Dupree and Hickman, ...	24 points 1
Lieut. Ross and Trooper Gedge, ...	22 points 2
Troopers Maxwell and Hall, ...	18 points 3

In this event points were given for carries, touches, speed and style, and some very good tent pegging was witnessed, the winners giving an excellent display.

POLO BALL RACE. In pairs, alternate strokes, round a post and back through goal. All ponies. 1st and 2nd prizes presented by Gymkhana Club. Entrance fee \$1 each.

Mr. H. E. Large and Captain Davy	1
Mr. C. L. Maxwell and Captain Finch, ...	2
Lieut. Webb-Bowen and Captain Cunningham, ...	3

LEMON CUTTING WITH SWORDS.—Start from the "Slope," "E gage," "Assault," make cuts 1, 2, on the right, Slope Swords. Two runs for each Competitor. Third runs for those called for by judges.

Trooper Master, 18 points 1
Trooper Morton Smith, 14 points... .. 2
Trooper Dupree, 13 points 3

In this event points were allowed for style, pace, slicing the lemon, and, in some instances, for a touch. Many of the competitors were successful in halving the first lemon, but nearly all failed in the back cut at the second. Trooper Master's winning was a very neat one, and his aim was sure. With his pony going at a good pace he sliced both lemons, receiving an ovation from the spectators.

BUCKET AND APPLE RACE.—A number of tubs or buckets to be placed in a row, half filled with water, with an apple in each. Competitors to start dismounted with no saddle. Mount, ride over a hurdle to buckets and each endeavor to secure an apple with his mouth whilst holding his pony. Mount with apple in mouth ride back over hurdle. First past winning post with apple in his mouth wins. Any competitor touching the apple at any time with his hand or any part of his body except the mouth will be disqualified. Entrance fee \$1. First and Second prizes presented by the Gymkhana Club. No second prize unless 5 starters.

Mr. H. F. C. Master 1

This event provoked considerable mirth, the competitors diving their heads into buckets of water, and making attempts to secure an apple in their mouths without the assistance of hands. Trooper Dupree was first home, but was disqualified for infringing the rules.

"LEAD PONY" RACE.—Conditions:—Ride one pony and lead another, (both saddled) over a figure of eight course. Ponies may be led by either bridle or head rope.

Trooper Dupree 1
Trooper Master 2
Trooper Morton Smith 3

Until the final lap in this event, Master headed the field. In the last turning, however, Dupree gained the lead, and retained it until the finish.

LADIES' NOMINATION.—Each Lady will be provided with a rosette of coloured ribbon, a streamer of the same colour to be attached to a ring. All the rings to be hung so that each one can be taken separately. Nominees will start at about 100 yards distance and tilt at them and endeavour to take off the ring bearing their respective nominatrixes' colours. First past winning post carrying ring to win prize for lady whose rosette is the colour of the streamer on ring carried. Two prizes, presented by the Gymkhana Club. Entrance fee \$1.

Mr. J. Paterson, nominated by Mrs. Carter 1
--

Captain Cunningham, nominated by Mrs. Glover 2

In this event most of the knights who tilted at the ring must have been out of practice, for only two out of the nine competitors were successful in securing their rings; the others fell to the ground, and the ladies who were unfortunate enough to have rosettes of the same colour as attached to these rings waited in vain.

VICTORIA CROSS RACE. Conditions:—Single entries. Dummies representing wounded men will be placed on the ground at a point indicated. Troopers to gallop up to their dummies under fire, lift same on to their saddles and return to winning post.

Trooper Potts 1
Trooper Maxwell 2
Trooper Dupree D. H.
Trooper Hall D. H.

"Good old Potts," the Volunteer Troop shouted as with one voice when Trooper Potts stepped from the ranks to receive from Mrs. Stokes the Victoria Cross prize for valour. The Trooper mentioned was the hero of the day. First into the firing line, composed of two immense strings of crackers and a small cannon which "turned turtle" every time it was discharged, the gallant trooper while clinging tight to the rein of his frightened steed, succeeded in lifting the inert body of a supposed comrade on to the back of the restive animal mounting himself, and galloping to safety and the first prize. As the smoke from the batteries cleared away, Troopers Maxwell, Dupree and Hall were seen racing for second place and they passed the winning post as stated above.

HAT RACE.—Competitors to ride over a hurdle to point where their helmets will be placed on the ground, pick up helmet without dismounting, ride on over a hurdle to winning post. First past winning post with helmet on head to win. First and second prizes presented by Gymkhana Club. Entrance fee \$1.

Mr. H. Morris 1
Mr. Dupree 2
Captain Brierley 3

The quietness or restiveness of the pony was a factor contributing for or against success in this race. Some of the animals, by standing quiet, enabled their riders to secure the helmets without trouble, while others became restive as soon as they were taken alongside the headpiece. Mr. Gedge was most unfortunate in this respect. One of the first in the race to the helmet, he was still striving to raise his from the ground without dismounting when the rest of the field had finished, but eventually gave it up.

LADIES' NOMINATION RACE. Troopers to be nominated by a lady. Ladies to line up in front of Grand Stand. Start from a point indicated, ride up to a tethering post, undo head rope, remove bridle, and tie up pony to post. With bridle on your arm, run up to lady and hand her your tunic with all buttons

off and chain straps unhooked. Lady to put in buttons and fix on straps, and assist her partner to put on his tunic, which must be properly buttoned up, etc., as if for a parade. Return to pony unhitch from post, put on bridle, tie up head rope, mount and ride past winning post.

Trooper Master, nominated by Mrs. Mackay	1
Lieut. Ross, nominated by Mrs. Stokes	2
Trooper Morris, nominated by Miss Newall	3

This was one of those cases in which the proverb "Most haste, less speed" is proved to be a true one. Fingers that would probably be nimble in sewing a button on a coat at home seemed, somehow, to be exceptionally awkward in fastening buttons on troopers' tunics. In fact, so long were the ladies in fulfilling their share in this event that even the ponies grew restless. But it would not be gallant to say more, so readers will allow for the natural nervousness of the weaker sex in public—excluding the suffragette, of course—and congratulate the winner.

THE "DO BE QUICK" RACE. DISTANCE ABOUT 1 MILE. FOR CHINA PONIES. For ladies and gentlemen to be entered in pairs. Pairs must pass winning post together to qualify for a win. In the event of more than 6 couples entering, a third prize will be given. A prize will be awarded to best descriptive name for this race to be sent in with entries. First and second prizes presented by Gymkhana Club. Entrance fee \$1 each.

Mr. and Mrs. Leefe 1
Mr. Master and Miss Mutter 2
Mr. Gedge and Mrs. Fremantle 3

It is not often that the fair equestrienne is seen taking part in any public event in Hongkong; consequently this race was looked forward to with interest. Mr. and Mrs. Leefe took the lead at the start, and held it. Mr. Master tried hard to draw his partner to the front, but the lady kept too tight a rein on her pony. The pairs passed the grandstand in very level order, however, and were cheered lustily by the spectators. In this event Mrs. Gresson was awarded the prize for the best descriptive name given the race.

ALPHA AND OMEGA RACE.—For China ponies. Competitors to be drawn in starting post—all start together and ride to a given point where they will dismount and the two riders in each pair will change ponies with each other. All will then race for the winning post. Two prizes will be given—one for the first rider in, and the other to go to the owner of the pony last in. Should the owner of the last pony and first rider in be identical he will be awarded one prize only (as first rider in). The other prize to go to owner of last pony but one. All ponies must, in opinion of the judges, be ridden to best advantage, i.e., to come in first. Entrance fee \$1. 1st and 2nd prizes presented by the Gymkhana Club.

Mr. Master 1
Mr. Dupree 2

Mr. Hickman was first home in this race but was disqualified for missing a flag.

BALACLAVA MELEE.—Conditions:—To be completed for by half the troop versus the other half. Leaders will be selected and they will select the teams by lot. No spurs allowed. Competitors will be provided with dummy swords and cockades half the troop blue, the other half red. Opponents' ponies may not be hit, competitors must keep within boundaries marked A B C D and retire as once when cockade is knocked off.

Won by Corporal Blason's team, composed of Troopers: Daniel, Hall, Hickman, Maxwell, Moon, Walker, Dupree, Morrall, Morris and Cunningham.

The losing team, Trooper Gedge's, was composed of Lieut. C. H. Ross and Troopers Potts, Smith, Stewart, Mellineth, M. Roy, Master, F. C. Hall, Weston, Paterson and King.

The sun was just setting when this battle started. Corporal Blason's team then lacking two staunch supporters. The men of the blue cockade (Trooper Gedge's team) charged en masse, while the upholders of the red cockade advanced in open order and quickly surrounded their opponents. Then the fight waxed hot and furious, and it was astonishing to the onlookers to see how many times a Britisher can be killed before he is willing to give up the ghost. After a hard fought fight, three of Corporal Blason's men still retained their

cockades, and the Corporal's team were adjudged the winners.

When the Gymkhana concluded Mrs. STOKES, who was presented by Trooper Dupree with a pretty bouquet, presented the prizes.

On completion of her task Lieutenant Ross called for three cheers for Mrs. Stokes. There were given, and supplemented by a "tiger," which concluded the proceedings.

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THE STEAM LAUNDRY CO., LD.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held at the office of Sir Paul Chater on the 17th inst. Mr. W. Hutton Potts presided, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater (director), Messrs. E. J. Chapman (secretary), P. C. Potts, A. H. Silva and Mak Fuk.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen:—With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The profit on working account, though only some \$377.72 better than last year, is satisfactory considering the depressed state of all business in the Colony. In the early part of the year under review we had expected to show a balance of \$3,000 more but our earnings have fallen off owing to the smaller receipts from shipping and the hotels. Private washing is about the same as last year. The buildings did not suffer very severely in the typhoon of 27th July, and the damage done has not cost more than about \$600 to repair. Considering the enormous amount of damage done to property generally we think the Laundry was fortunate in getting off so cheaply. Now that our fixed assets will be reduced by the proposed writing off of \$8,357.35 to some \$4,000, below the capital subscribed, we think that in future it will not be necessary to write off so largely, and, if returns keep up, we should be able to pay large dividends in future. Of course the actual depreciation of the machinery will have to be provided for. I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. P. C. POTTS seconded, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

On the motion of Mr. P. C. POTTS, seconded by Mr. SILVA, Sir Paul Chater was re-elected to the directorate.

Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin was re-elected auditor on the motion of Mr. MAK FUK, seconded by Mr. SILVA.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on application on Monday. Thank you for your attendance.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE LTD.

The twenty-seventh ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., at noon on Oct. 24th. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. P. White, E. Shellim (consulting committee), L. N. Leefe (secretary), H. Percy Smith, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shiu, Chan San, Ho U Sang, P. Nalin, D. D. Gasdar and F. J. V. Ribeiro, representing 1522 shares.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and I will, therefore, with your permission take them as read. The General Agents and Consulting Committee much regret having to present to you a report which necessitates a reduction in the dividend, but those of you who have been observing the published accounts of the marine insurance companies whose head offices are at home will be conscious of the bad results which have attended underwriting in 1906 and last year. It was shown in an article published in "Fairplay" in the early part of this year that the combined results of ten leading companies had in 1905 and 1906 resulted in a trading loss. We derive a large

proportion of our income from our London agency, and in common with our competitors our experience there has been bad. Last year my predecessor alluded to the difficulty, I might say impossibility, of correctly estimating at this period what the final outturn of the year will be, and I regret to say that 1906 ran off less well than we had hoped. Losses in 1907 have been heavy and we cannot in the light of our experience of the preceding year, specially with no marked improvement in conditions, fail to make very full and ample provision for unascertained losses at this date, and this accounts for the recommendation of the Board that so large a sum as \$382,871 be carried to Underwriting Suspense Account. I am glad to say that 1908 so far, is going better than its predecessor but it is early days to speak of it yet. The business responsible for the bad results already alluded to has received, and is now receiving anxious consideration, and I trust that the steps we are taking to produce a better result will be in evidence in our figures next year. Our investments have undergone little change since our last meeting. The state of the local property market has not improved, but our surveyors have been able to give us a satisfactory report on our mortgages, and our gold securities are worth considerably more than the sum at which they stand in our books. Turning to the liabilities, you will find that the Reinsurance Fund has slightly but satisfactorily progressed. The Underwriting Suspense Account stands reduced by the claims of 1906 and previous years and Accounts Payable are \$5,148 more than last year. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer any question that shareholders may desire to put.

No questions were asked, and the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. WHITE.

Mr. NALIN moved the re-election of Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. F. Mai land, G. C. Moron, E. Shellim and H. P. White to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. CHAN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and H. Percy Smith were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. GARDNER, seconded by Mr. Ho Fook.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be posted early to-morrow morning, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was called for Saturday at noon in order to confirm a resolution passed at a previous meeting. There were present Messrs. H. Humphreys (chairman), J. A. C. Bonnar, J. S. Van Buren, Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Dr. Noble (directors), Messrs. J. A. Jupp, E. Sath (secretary), C. B. Buyers, D. E. Clark, and J. M. Wong. There was not a quorum and the meeting was adjourned until Saturday next.

THE NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LD.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the North China Insurance Co., Ltd. was held in the Company's offices No. 10, The Bund, Shanghai, on the 20th inst. Mr. J. N. Jameson (Chairman) presided and there were present: Messrs. H. de Gray, A. Hide, H. B. Kinnear, W. D. Little, W. Meyerink (Directors); H. G. Simms (Secretary); and A. McLeod, J. M. Young, J. Samson, H. A. J. Macray, C. W. Wrightson, W. S. Jackson, A. C. Hunter, J. Prentice, R. H. Beauchamp, and Qus Sang (shareholders), representing 842 shares.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen: As the report and accounts for the past year have been with you for more than a fortnight we will with your permission, take them as read. The business for our consideration at this meeting is the passing of the report and accounts, the declaration of a final dividend and bonus to contributors, to place £1,500 out of the profits for the year to silver reserve, and to transfer the balance of working account to underwriting reserve account, closing the

account for 1907. We are now having times of keen competition, deplorably low insurance rates, and depression in trade and shareholders will rightly expect a word from the Directors concerning the affairs of the Company. I am glad to say your Directors have no discouraging word to utter, for they are justly hopeful that with the return to normal activity in trade the earnings will quicken and increase. As to the conduct of your affairs there is no change in the policy of the administration; that policy is progress by careful and conservative methods. In bringing forward plans in 1903 for remodelling the North China Insurance Company the aims the Directors had in view were the constant building up of reserve funds, and increased returns to shareholders and contributors. The wisdom of the shareholders in confirming these suggestions of the Directors has been fully confirmed. For the last four years you have received fifteen per cent dividend where previously you had eight per cent and by a glance at the accounts you will see how steadily your reserves have increased until they are now more than three times the paid-up capital of your Company. You will also notice that you have first class investments amounting to £1,200,000 to give confidence and satisfaction to our policy holders. Before putting the first resolution to the meeting I shall be pleased to give any further information that may be required.

No questions were asked and the following resolutions were put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. W. D. Little. That the reports and accounts as now presented be accepted and passed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. B. Kinnear. That a final dividend of 7½ per cent on the paid-up capital and a bonus of 15 per cent upon contributory premiums be distributed, both payable at the exchange, 2s 4d, per tael. £1,500 to be transferred to silver reserve fund, and the balance to be transferred to underwriting reserve account, closing the account for 1907.

Proposed by Mr. J. M. Young, seconded by Mr. C. W. Wrightson that Messrs. Jameson, De Gray, Hide, Kinnear, Little, and Meyerink be re-elected Directors of the Company, and that the remuneration of the Directors be Tael 6,000 per annum.

Proposed by Mr. H. A. J. Macray, seconded by Mr. A. C. Hunter: That Messrs. Wingrove and Hayter be re-elected auditors of the Company.

The Chairman thanked the shareholders for their attendance and said that dividend warrants would be issued next day. The meeting then ended.

SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK.

BIG INCREASE IN NEW PROFITS OF PAST HALF-YEAR.

The following is the half-yearly report of the Board of Directors of the Commercial Bank, Limited, to be presented at the fourth general meeting held at the company's office on Tuesday, the 20th inst:—

The net profits for the half-year ended September 31 (including £1,924.15 brought forward from last account) amount to Ticals 208,414.10, against Ticals 183,511.49 for the preceding half-year.

We propose, besides the statutory addition to the ordinary reserve fund of Ticals 19,919 to add Ticals 71,000 to the extraordinary reserve fund and to pay a dividend of 3 per cent, absorbing Ticals 9,000.

Ticals 5,213.55 are applied as remuneration for the Board of Directors, and Ticals 5,727 as bonus for the staff, leaving a balance of Ticals 12,554.55 to be carried to the next account.

The extraordinary scarcity of money during the past few months has unfavourably affected trade in general, and we therefore thought it advisable considerably to reduce our loan and overdraft accounts. It appears, however, that money is now becoming more plentiful and trade is covering.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable condition of the market, our business has shown steady progress. The turn-over during the half-year was Ticals 148,828,227.86, against Ticals 95,814,995.38 of the preceding half-year.

INTERPORT SHOOTING.

Singapore wins the trophy. Hongkong after many delays, shot off in on Oct. 16th dull and cloudy weather, and failed to make as good a total as was expected. As a matter of fact they are the "wooden spoonists" of the year coming last with 901. The positions are.

Singapore	937
Shanghai	923
Penang	910
Hongkong	901

It is some time since Singapore won and nobody will begrudge the southern men their victory.

In the Hongkong team were five men who had upheld the honour of the Colony on former occasions. The others, with the exception of McGillivray, were drawn from the Services. The names are:—

Captain G. P. Lammert,
Mr. J. Pidgeon,
Mr. R. Lapsley,
Mr. J. Gow,
Mr. A. Jenkins,
Col. Sgt. Wright (Middlesex),
Sergt. Hall (do),
L. Sergt. Munro (do),
Chief Petty Officer Paddon ("Tamar"),
Mr. J. P. McGillivray (Reserves).

The afternoon was windless but the light was none too good. With a total of 309 at the first range, it was reckoned that the day was not lost, but the better results expected at 500 yards were not realised. McGillivray made 34, and Lapsley and Hall had 33 each. At the 600 yards the marksmen fell away somewhat but Gow and Lapsley still maintained their steady shooting. Before the men went back to the 600 yards it was felt that victory was hopeless, but it was not expected that such a poor finish should be witnessed. Scores.

	200 yards.	Total.
Gow	(5) 4 5 5 5 5 4 5	33
Lapsley	(4) 4 4 5 5 5 5 4	32
Lammert	(3) 5 4 4 5 4 5 5	32
Pidgeon	(5) 5 4 5 4 5 5 4	32
Hall	(5) 5 4 5 4 4 5 4	31
Paddon	(2) 4 4 4 5 5 5 4	31
Wright	(2) 5 4 5 3 5 4 4	30
Munro	(4) 4 5 4 4 5 4 4	30
Jenkins	(4) 3 4 4 4 4 5 5	29
McGillivray	(4) 4 4 4 5 4 5 3	29

	500 YARDS.	Total.
McGillivray	(3) 5 4 5 5 5 5 5	34
Lapsley	(5) 5 5 5 3 5 5 5	33
Hall	(2) 5 4 4 5 5 5 5	33
Jenkins	(5) 5 5 4 5 5 5 4	33
Gow	(4) 4 4 5 5 4 4 5	31
Munro	(5) 5 4 2 5 5 5 4	30
Paddon	(2) 5 3 4 5 5 4 4	30
Lammert	(5) 4 5 4 4 4 4 4	29
Pidgeon	(5) 4 5 3 4 4 4 4	28
Wright	(0) 2 2 3 4 4 5 4	24

	600 YARDS.	Total.
Gow	(5) 5 5 3 5 5 5 5	33
Lapsley	(3) 5 4 5 5 5 4 4	32
Munro	(3) 5 5 3 3 5 4 5	30
Pidgeon	(3) 4 5 5 4 3 5 3	29
Paddon	(4) 5 5 4 4 4 4 3	29
Wright	(2) 3 5 5 2 5 4 4	23
Jenkins	(4) 5 4 4 4 4 3 4	38
McGillivray	(2) 3 3 5 2 5 4 4	26
Hall	(4) 4 4 3 4 4 4 3	26
Lammert	(5) 3 4 4 4 3 5 3	26

	AGGREGATE.
Gow	97
Lapsley	97
Munro	90
Jenkins	90
Hall	90
Paddon	90
McGillivray	89
Pidgeon	89
Lammert	87
Wright	82

Lieut.-Colonel Chapman and Mr. Wakeman acted as umpires.

THE SHANGHAI SHOOT.

From the N.-C. Daily News of the 10th inst:—

The Shanghai team shot for the interport challenge shield yesterday afternoon, but failed badly. After the dull light and steady winds of the past few weeks, yesterday's conditions called for material alteration in elevation and windage. The light was bright but there was a most gusty wind from the northeast. Nearly all the members of the team were considered good for 95 or 96 in ordinary circumstances, but there was a general break-down, and particularly at the 600 yards range. Linda, who had scored 101 the previous day in the practice match, fell back to 86, and Lynch, who can usually be relied upon for a score of at least 32 per range, could only aggregate 89. Brand had bad luck, as his score of 30 at 50 yards included one miss.

The scores were:—

	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
T. H. U. Aldridge	33	31	32	96	
W. Brand	33	30	32	95	
P. W. Mackintosh	33	32	29	94	
Capt. E. I. M. Barrett	31	32	30	9	
Capt. Hilton Johnson	30	33	30	93	
C. Richards	33	30	30	93	
P. W. Lancaster	31	30	31	92	
W. E. Sayer	33	32	27	92	
E. H. Lynch	29	30	30	89	
H. J. Linda	30	30	26	86	
Total	316	310	297	923	

The complete record is as follows:—

1889: Shanghai, 819; Singapore, 777; Hongkong, 774.
1890: No match.
1891: Hongkong 667; Shanghai, 830; Singapore, 741.
1892: Hongkong, 835; Shanghai, 810; Singapore, 752.
1893: Hongkong, 822; Shanghai 802; Singapore, 768.
1894: Hongkong, 823; Singapore, 817; Shanghai, 760.
1895: Singapore, 934; Shanghai 913; Hongkong, 879.
1896: Hongkong, 916; Shanghai, 900; Singapore, 870.
1897: Singapore, 934; Hongkong, 216; Shanghai, 861.
1898: Hongkong, 934; Singapore, 923; Shanghai, 893.
1899: Hongkong, 952; Singapore, 926; Shanghai, 887.
1900: Hongkong, 931; Singapore, 909; Shanghai, 900.
1901: Hongkong, 901; Singapore, 884; Shanghai, 841; Penang, 721.
1902: Shanghai 926; Singapore 893; Hongkong, 870; Penang, 871.
1903: Singapore, 927; Shanghai, 915; Hongkong, 891; Penang, 750.
1904: Singapore, 919; Hongkong, 919; Shanghai, 908.
1905: Hongkong, 923; Shanghai, 889; Singapore, 800.
1906: Shanghai, 936; Singapore, 909; Hongkong, 891; Penang, 821.
1907: Shanghai 943; Hongkong, 938; Singapore, 928.

A report by Mr. A. Denison, M. INST. C.E. of Hongkong, upon the Penang Hills Railway was laid on the table at the Straits Legislative Council meeting recently. Mr. Denison's report condemned the railway and made recommendations which practically amount to re-construction, involving an expenditure estimated at \$193,000. Mr. Denison adds that he has no doubt that if the Penang Hill Railway were completed and in working order, a settlement would soon be built on the high levels which would be a health resort for the Malay States.

THE STRANDING OF THE "HAILAN."

A DANGEROUS SANDBANK.

When Messrs. A. R. Marty and Co's steamer "Hailan" arrived in port on Oct. 20 a representative of the Daily Press sought the captain to learn particulars of the stranding of his vessel on a sandbank near Hoihow. When found, Captain Hoeg related the experiences those on board the "Hailan" had passed through during the storm. The vessel was at anchor in Hoihow harbour on Sunday, the 11th instant, said the captain, and all prepared for the typhoon which was approaching and which overtook her half an hour after midday. Both anchors were out, with a sufficient quantity of chain, and the vessel was kept steaming against the typhoon. The tide was running in an easterly direction, while the gale was from the W.N.W. and swung the ship against the tide, the result being that the starboard anchor and 30 fathoms of chain carried away. The port anchor was incapable of holding the vessel, and she kept on dragging until nine o'clock that night, eventually being driven bow on into the big sandbank which stands from four to six feet above sea level at high water. On Monday morning the spare anchor was hoisted in and preparations were made for the release of the ship. It was realised that this would be a difficult task, the vessel being jammed into the sand, which had a billowy surface, in some places to a depth of four feet. But the captain was not the man to despair until the last effort had proved of no avail. For five days the crew toiled to release their ship, and on the fifth day were rejoiced to find their efforts crowned with success. During these five days the "Hailan's" engines had been worked at full speed astern, and two ketches had rendered assistance in the re-floating of the vessel which took the water shortly after ten o'clock on Friday morning.

The steamer's engines were slightly damaged with sand and awning, boat covers and rails were carried away, but so far as the captain could see, the vessel had not received serious damage. She will, however, be placed on the dock shortly for survey.

The Chinese gunboat "Wang Yik," like the "Hailan," was driven firmly into the bank, having lost her rudder during the storm. When Captain Hoeg left Hoihow on Sunday morning, the warship was still hard and fast, the efforts to re-float her up till that time having been unsuccessful.

It may also be mentioned that in the typhoon of the 6th instant two other steamers were driven on to this sandbank. One was Messrs. Jeeben and Co's "Matilda," and the other the French steamer "Heung Chow." Both went on the bank at the same time, and it took as long to refloat the "Matilda" as it did the "Hailan" on this occasion.

MORE UNDESIRABLES.

Another batch of miserable-looking wretches filled the police compound on Oct. 20th. They were undesirables sent up from the Netherlands Indies and, as they huddled together under the shade of the few trees in the compound, they presented a most abject appearance. Several of them were too weak to walk up to the Central Police Station and had to be carried in chairs. One lay down by the wayside and had ultimately to be assisted. Others, when they reached the compound, could only crawl on their hands and knees. One man was so ill that he had to be sent to the hospital.

The question of providing accommodation for these arrivals is becoming more acute. Last month there were hundreds who had to exist for several days in the compound exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather and a number had to be taken to hospital. As it is not uncommon to have these people reach port in a dying condition some more adequate provision should be made for their temporary accommodation.

Most of those who arrived yesterday will be forwarded to Canton and Swatow.

VOLUNTEER CAMP.

On Oct. 17th the Hongkong Volunteers went under canvas at Stonecutters for their annual sixteen days' instruction. As usual, the encampment was pitched on the slope of the hill, the arrangement being practically the same as in former years. As typhoons threatened and gales blew rather frequently last week the staff had a pretty hard task in erecting the tents, and, on occasions, it took about ten men to hold down one tent. However all were completed and in readiness for the men coming into camp on Saturday afternoon.

About 140 men went under canvas the first night, which, taking all things into consideration, must be regarded as very satisfactory. Not all the men can attend at one time and if that number be maintained there is little ground for complaint. As a rule the total is somewhat increased at the week-ends.

Those who went across with the first transport had quite a busy time hammering in pegs and tightening ropes, but they were not too tired to attend the first drill in the evening. On Sunday morning reveille was not sounded at the usual hour, an indulgence which was greatly appreciated by those who found fatigue duty somewhat arduous. However, the Volunteers were mustered for church parade, joining the regulars at divine service. The Rev. Dallas Innes, army chaplain, conducted the service and preached a practical sermon. The offertory, taken on behalf of the hospitals, realised a goodly sum. During the morning a lecture was given on the care and preservation of the rifle.

The arrangement of the tents is practically the same as before, with the difference that provision is made for the new infantry company. No programme has been drawn up yet but that will be attended to without delay. The artillery have special drills on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chapman is in command and he is well supported by all the officers, only one of whom is absent. Three new officers make their appearance this time, Second Lieutenant Andrews, the former energetic sergeant major, and Second Lieutenant Rees, who formerly held the rank of sergeant, and Mr. William Russell, who has been induced to take a commission. Their many friends will tender congratulations to the new officers.

As usual, the camp is lit by electricity, the work of the Engineers.

CAMP NOTES.

On October 19th saw the men of cannon starting to the serious work of the camp. Two hours' hard graft in the early morning makes a man relish breakfast.

A rifle has been affixed by Armourer-Sergeant Avenell to one of the sixteen pounders, which allows of additional realism being imparted into the exercises.

The corps has its own trumpeter this year. Bugler Witchell takes all the calls. The most popular is "Come to the cookhouse door, boys."

The new infantry company is shaping well. Captain Wood is a popular commander. Several stripes are still to be wetted.

The new officers have made their debut.

The week end was quiet. Doubtless the gloomy weather kept away many visitors. It ought to be different on the next guest nights.

Great coats are popular these nights. The air has a chill that penetrates.

The new headgear gives the men a smart appearance.

The catering is again in the hands of Ying Kee.

The sergeants are accommodated on the side opposite to their old quarters.

The camp is admirably lit with electricity. Guard mounting is better done now than before.

Both returns issued by the Medical Officer of Health for the week ended the 17th instant show a large "nil." There were no cases of plague nor of any other communicable disease.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 17th instant to consider the question of declaring No. 4 shed, Sassoon's Villa, to be infected with foot and mouth disease. Mr. C. Mol Messer, president, presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving (Registrar-General), Dr. Pears (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper and Mr. A. Gibson (secretary).

The PRESIDENT informed the Board that a letter had been received from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reporting that foot and mouth disease existed at No. 4 shed, Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam Road, the property of the Dairy Farm Ltd. There were 14 cows and 12 calves in the shed. He had had the place closed, and the sale of milk from the affected shed stopped provisionally; and he recommended that the Board declare the shed an infected area under byelaw 12 of the Importation and Inspection of Animals Byelaws, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1903 1908.

The PRESIDENT moved that the recommendation of the Veterinary Surgeon be acted upon.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was carried.

A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING BUNDLE.

Varied and original are the excuses tendered by Chinese when arraigned before magistrates at the Police Court, and a very ingenious one was offered to Mr. J. H. Kemp yesterday when a native was charged with removing a dead body without the written permission of the Sanitary Department. Lukong 209 observed the man carrying a bundle along Connaught Road on Thursday, and asked him what it contained. "It's only a bundle of rags" was the reply. The Lukong ordered him to open it. The order was complied with, and the dead body of a child revealed. Defendant was taken to No. 7 Police Station, and there he told Inspector Robertson that he had been asked by a friend to carry the bundle, and understood it was tobacco. Yesterday he told his Worship that a friend asked him to carry the bundle to a man at Kennedy Town. He did not know with whom he was to leave it, but was told that he would meet a hawker at Shektonau who would direct him. He was told by his friend that the bundle contained opium drops.

His Worship adjourned the case pending receipt of the medical report.

IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF A PROMINENT SPORTSMAN.

When Lieut.-Colonel Broke, R.E., leaves Hongkong by the transport "Soudan," the Colony will realise that it has lost one of its most enthusiastic "sports"; a man who has done much to promote harmony among athletes, and to purify sport of all sordidness. The departing Colonel was identified with most sporting Clubs in the Colony, and it was owing largely to his efforts that the Amateur Athletic Association was formed, an association of which he was the first president. He was also rowing captain of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club and in this position increased the interest taken in this branch of sport by infusing enthusiasm into the scullers of the Club. In appreciation of his efforts the members of the Yacht Club entertained him at a farewell dinner on Friday night, when regrets were expressed at his departure and sentiments voiced that he would have a pleasant trip and a prosperous future in the homeland.

THE DEATH-ROLL OF KOREAN INSURGENTS.

The rioters killed up to the end of August since the conclusion of the latest Japanese Protectorate treaty in July, 1907, number 12,016; of these 11,664 of them were counted by Japanese garrison, 696 by the gen farmerie and 552 by the (native) police corps, while 532 surrendered. The Japanese casualties comprise 169 killed, 254 wounded and 8,162 sick, including 796 succumbed.

THE QUESTION OF CHINA'S CURRENCY.

A CHINESE VIEW.

In all discussions on China's Currency which we have yet read the trade losses at the Treaty Ports alone are taken into consideration, while the far larger portion of her trade, that which does not come prominently before the foreign Consul, customs official or merchant, is apparently overlooked. It may perhaps come as a surprise, to some writers on the subject, to discover that the foreign trade of China represents but a small fraction of the trade of the Empire.

We think that we can safely state that it is a fundamental truth that "the wealth of a country cannot be estimated by her foreign trade alone." This seems to have been overlooked by the debaters of China's Currency question and its omission from their calculations leads them to a false conclusion, the premises from which they start their arguments being incomplete, if not inaccurate.

Now, China is essentially a self-supporting country. Her inter-Provincial trade is enormous and the fertility of her soil provides the necessary wealth with which to carry this on, leaving a handsome margin for the expenses of Government and public works. China's foreign trade, as we have shown in a former article, drew from the country a sum of approximately 139,692,979 Haikwan taels during 1907 (balance of imports over exports) to which must be added 28,500,000 H. Taels in payment of interest on foreign loans.

Now the percentage of China's imports over exports during this same year, with a fall of 20 per cent in exchange values, fell from 74 per cent in 1906 and 97 per cent in 1905 to 57 per cent. Had exchange continued to rule high it is only natural to assume that our export trade would have suffered in accordance with the percentage of 1906 and our payments abroad would have consequently shown a much heavier net total. This shows that in spite of a 20 per cent fall in exchange our loss was by no means so great as might be supposed. On imports 416,401,369 plus interest on loans 38,500,000 H. Taels presuming that we lost the whole 20 per cent we should be to the bad H. Taels 90,981,272 and on imports we should gain (under the same conditions) the sum of H. Taels 57,061,678 leaving a balance of loss of H. Taels 33,918,594, or say, approximately 7.5 per cent on the whole import trade and loan interest.

Again, if the exchange had ruled high and the disparity between imports and exports had remained as in 1906, as a consequence our import and export figures would have shown an additional disparity of 17 per cent. Assuming that this loss would have fallen entirely upon exports, we should have had to pay abroad H. Taels 416,401,369 and receive in exchange only 244,874,048 H. Taels for our exports. This would entail a balance against us of H. Taels 171,527,321, that is a dead loss of H. Taels 41,934,342. The loss to our balance of trade would thus be enhanced by H. Taels 7,075,748. We should gain approximately this difference on our loan interest, but we should lose again on the export of treasure which at the exchange of 1906 only amounted to H. Taels 3,968,855 as against H. Taels 21,427,693 in 1907, a difference of H. Taels 17,459,838.

The increase in this export trade, however, reacts favourably upon our home producers and as a consequence, foreign produce being expensive, the inter-Provincial trade is given a great impetus. It must not be forgotten that a great deal of the interior trade is still carried on by barter. There is also a vast trade carried on in this old-fashioned way with Russia, Siberia, Turkestan, Tibet, Mongolia and other bordering districts, the balance of accounts only being paid in cash or by bank drafts. This trade is totally unaffected by fluctuating exchanges, the caravans having frequently been months and sometimes years on their journeys. Herein lies the chief difficulty in establishing the universal currency for China, for many of these traders would be indisposed to fall in with the new system and a large and valuable trade would be endangered.

The present system of Chinese banking in the interior is exceedingly well adapted to the conditions of trade prevailing where foreigners,

of the modern school, do not come into contact with our people. Unfortunately accurate statistics of provincial trade in the interior are impossible to obtain, at present, but it can be asserted without fear of contradiction that "the internal trade of China is enormously in excess of the foreign trade." We should say that it amounts to approximately 80 per cent. of the whole trade of the country, in value, and 98 or 99 per cent. in quantity. This, it must be understood, is merely a rough guess founded upon observation of the extreme scarcity of foreign products in many of the interior markets.

We do not in any way contend that at some future date the currency of China will not require to be brought into line with that of the West but we do assert that the country is not yet ripe for such an institution. It may also be noted that the gold output of the world is increasing rapidly, £83,000,000 being last year's total, nearly double that of silver. Financiers are also showing signs of adjusting fixed ratio between gold and silver, when minted at a certain fineness, and it is quite possible that China may find that her silver currency will become a fixed instead of a fluctuating one provided that she has coined, or re-coined, to the requisite standard.—*Chinese Public Opinion.*

CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"A SERIOUS TROUBLE BREWING."

The Manila *Cablenews* says:—It is significant that one hears from all classes of Americans expressions of fear that the peace of the islands is not to be kept long.

"Something must be done," say Americans and Englishmen. They do not speak very definitely but convey the impression that recent murders and other crimes of violence of which white people have been the victims cause them to dread that these are but signs of a greater unrest under the surface. There seems to be a general feeling that the Government must bestir itself to assert its authority; that serious trouble is brewing for the United States in the Philippines. These expressions do not come alone from the Army and from merchants and others, but also from some of the highest officials of the Government. One or two whose duties take them into the provinces, and one especially one who is on the bench, have talked to the Editor of this paper on this subject. They seem to have forebodings which they either do not care to put in exact words or are unable to formulate in plain language. But they shake their heads and say, "Something must be done and done soon. We are losing the respect of these people and are losing control over them. The Filipino politicians caciques, and ilustrados seem to be drunk with their license. The prestige of the white is very low in these islands. This cannot go on. It will surely result in disaster."

COMMENTS BY THE NATIVE PRESS.

Under the caption "Jingoism in action" *Los Obreros* characterizes as a wanton insult to the Filipino people the resolution passed by Egbert Camp of the Veteran Army, anent the Pampanga murders, recommending the substitution of native provincial officials by Americans in view of the incapacity shown by the former. Dismissing these charges as preposterous and belied by the facts, the paper accuses the American government as incapable to rule in the Philippines, saying that this incapacity had been "plainly demonstrated by the many murders of Filipinos, the raping of Filipina maiden and the frequent embezzlements of public funds by the individuals who came here with that brilliant crowd of apostles to preach the principles of civilization, democracy, and honour.

"Behind the exalted American patriotism of the Veterans, there is the desire to see established here a jingo government." *Asamblea Filipina* says, also commenting on the Pampanga affair. "The Americans are office-hungry and are looking for something to eat and for something to purchase a bottle of whiskey," the paper asserts.

La Democracia deplores that the Governor General after ascertaining the charges against Fiscal Veloso to be unfounded, had no word of censure for his jingo accuser and goes on to remark: "This policy of temporising and trying to please everybody, is the only cause of the sad condition of affairs now prevailing in the country and so prejudicial to the interests of Filipinos and Americans alike. If our officials, instead of trying to please and compromise at all costs, had firmly dealt with all matters as they came up, even to the extent of displeasing the worthy Veterans or to disillusioning the people as regards immediate independence, we would not now face the dangers predicted by the 'mericans."

The *Mercurio* says:—"There is only one class of people in the Philippines to-day that is satisfied and which smiles self-sufficiently when it hears that the country is suffering: those who are on the government payroll. And this is not an exaggeration. There exists misery, which is responsible for the great prevalence of vice and crime among the lower classes of society."

"The American press of Manila is playing with fire and is in danger of getting scorched," says *El Me canil*, commenting on what it believes to be a malicious effort to create race antagonism in connection with the "an Juan del Monte and Floridablanca outrages, to quote. "True to their habit of obscuring things that are as clear as the light of day and of placing twisted interpretations on the most lamentable occurrences, the American papers of Manila say that the unfortunate victims at Floridablanca were an American and two Spaniards. Everybody knows that Toledo and the Cayanay boys, very dear friends of ours, were not Spaniards, but Filipinos, and the insistence of the American press that the murdered men were natives of Spain, even now when the matter has been sufficiently cleared up, seems to be due to a deliberate and malicious attempt to misrepresent things and make a race question out of the Floridablanca tragedy. Let the courts judge impartially and without distinction of race. It is not the province of the excitable masses of the people nor of opinionated newspapers.

"But it has been ever thus with the American press of Manila. After losing time by talking, with their customary ignorance, about the defects and errors of the Spanish government, these amiable contemporaries are now forced to admit the impotence of the American administration in checking cholera, now with us for the past seven years. But, instead of acknowledging, in view of this fact, the utter failure of the health authorities and its own countrymen, who are mourning the loss of many thousands of persons that might have been saved here by the officers and crews of the battleship fleet, these papers haughtily inveigh against the municipal and provincial government, attributing the lamentable occurrences above referred to, what they term the unfitness of these governments for the privileges of local administration.—Translated by the *Cablenews*.

A LEGAL QUESTION.

What appears to be a precedent has been established by Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy. On Oct. 20th Inspector Ritchie prosecuted the master of a second-hand shop in Lower Lascar Road for being in possession of two garden chairs which had been stolen from the Volunteer Headquarters. Mrs. Higby reported the loss of the chairs to the Central Police Station and a detective was dispatched to make inquiries. He found the chairs in the shop in question and was informed by the master that he had bought them from a coolie, whom he did not know, for 45 cents each. The value of the chairs was \$1.75 each. Inspector Ritchie based his prosecution on a 36 of Ordinance 1 of 1845, which states that it is an offence to be found in possession of stolen property. His Worship took the view that this was only intended to apply to persons caught with the stolen property in their actual possession and asked Inspector Ritchie to withdraw the case. This Inspector Ritchie declined to do and Mr. Wood discharged the defendant.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

October 14th.

A FORGED SHARE SCRIP.

Yesterday a man named Wong Ming Shan went to the Oi Yuk Charitable Institution to pay the second instalment on 500 shares of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company. He produced a scrip of 500 shares for endorsement. On examining the chop which is impressed partly on the scrip and partly on the counterfoil in the scrip book, the accountant discovered that the part of the chop on the scrip did not correspond with the other half on the scrip book and he declared that the scrip was a forgery. Although the two separate parts of the chop did not agree, still the name of the original holder and the number of the scrip corresponded with what was written in the counterpart in the scrip book. The accountant asked Wong who sold the shares to him. Wong replied that he bought them from the Sui Cheung Pawn Shop in Hongkong, and produced a document given to him by the said pawnshop certifying the scrip to be a genuine document. The Director of the Institution ordered the forged scrip to be sent to the Head Office of the Railway Company advising them to destroy it. The name on the forged scrip is Woo Sui Chut and numbered "OI" 1406.

NO MORE OFFICIAL POSITIONS FOR SALE.

Recently Viceroy Chang cabled to the Board of Civil Affairs in Peking stating that, owing to the serious disasters wrought by the flood, it was necessary to raise further funds to assist the people in the distressed districts, and requesting the Board to sanction the sale of permanent official positions in order to raise the funds required.

The Board replied as follows:—"The Throne has already issued an Edict for the establishment of Constitutional Government and the people have been requested to qualify themselves for election to Parliament. The selling of the permanent official positions to all classes of people will not only confuse the status of the officials but will destroy the good intentions of the Throne whose object it is to have learned and cultured men enter Parliament. This request of yours has caused us to convene a meeting of the Grand Council, the Princes and Ministers, in which it was decided and placed on official record of this Board that the selling of permanent official positions is hereby suppressed for ever, no matter whether funds are required for war, rebellion, suppression of piracy, national debts, public projects, floods, famines, &c. Even for these important and urgent matters permission for selling permanent official positions will for ever be refused.

"This is one of the most important reforms and essential rules of the present Government enforced to adjust official positions. We cable this to you first and will notify the Viceroys and Governors of other provinces to the same effect."

OPIUM NOTIFICATION.

Some time ago the Chief Superintendent of Police here instructed the officials in all the districts of the Kwong Chou Prefecture to report to him the number of men in their respective districts who smoke opium. The district officials looked upon it as an unimportant matter and did not reply. A few of them sent in petitions with rough statements which, they say, were told to them by the yamen runners and "Ti Po's," but these are incorrect and not the actual figures. It has been decided to issue large wooden licenses and before issuing them the number of opium smokers in each district must be known so that the approximate number of wooden licenses may be ordered for distribution. The Chief of Police has again issued a notification informing the district officials that they are required to send in complete reports of the number of opium smokers in their districts within a month. If any of them should fail to do so within that time they will be cashiered and punished and will generally be strictly dealt with.

A RICKSHAW MONOPOLY.

The Director of the Ho Pak Reclamation Bureau has issued a notification inviting people to tender for the sole privilege of running 40 rickshaws on the Ho Pak new bund. The notification distinctly states that all rickshaws must be new and have india rubber tyres. This would be a good speculation for Hongkong Chinese merchants, as rickshaw pullers will have to be engaged from Hongkong.

October 15th

WARNING AGAINST EMIGRATION TO VICTORIA.

The Bureau of Local Affairs here received a petition from the Chinese Association in Victoria, Canada, stating that there are large numbers of Chinese merchants and labourers in the city of Victoria which is a very prosperous business place in Canada. A few years ago the Canadian Government imposed an immigration tax of gold \$50 on every Chinese immigrant, shortly afterwards the tax was increased to \$100 and now it is \$500. Wages of the different classes of labourers increased considerably, Chinese labourers, attracted by high wages, disregarded the heavy poll-tax and flocked to Victoria to earn their livelihood. Contrary to their expectations, Japanese and Indian labourers, who are exempted from the emigration tax, have in recent years swarmed to Victoria like bees, underselling Chinese labourers and consequently the rate of wages is steadily declining. But the influx of the Chinese people is still as great as ever and it has even become rather difficult to earn a living now-a-days. In view of these facts, the members of the Chinese Association in Victoria have sent a petition to the Bureau of Local Affairs requesting them to make known to the public the real position of affairs in Victoria.

On receipt of the petition the Bureau of Local Affairs directed the Kwong Chow Prefect to direct the Nam Hoi and Poon Yu Magistrates to issue proclamations exhorting the people to temporarily cease going to Victoria. It is reported that proclamations to the above effect were issued by the Magistrate yesterday.

THE CANTON SWIMMING BATH SCHEME.

Mr. Fox, the Acting British Consul General has issued a notice convening another meeting of the ratepayers of the British Concession in connection with the proposed Swimming Bath. The meeting called for October 12th at 4 p.m. was not attended by a sufficient number of ratepayers to allow of the resolution regarding the Swimming Bath being passed by the necessary majority of two-thirds of the total number of votes in the list of voters. Another special meeting is therefore called for Thursday, October 22nd at 9.30 a.m. at the Consulate when it is earnestly hoped that all rate payers will make a point of being present.

The business of the meeting is to formulate a request to His Majesty's Office of Works for the lease of Lot No. 78 to the Municipal Council for the purpose of erecting a Public Swimming Bath thereon.

October 16th.

NORTH RIVER FLOOD

The Flood Relief Society and the various Charitable Institutions here have again been very busy lately in rendering good service to the people of the districts up the North River.

It is reported that in places in the Hoi Ping and Sun Ning districts the fields and houses are inundated with 15 to 20 feet of water. The sudden and unexpected rising of the North River to over 30 feet high at this time of the year has caught the country people unawares. Many of them have lost everything and are now homeless and starving. The loss of life in the districts bordering on the North River is considerable and hundreds of corpses are said to be floating in the River. It is reported that the flood has been caused by heavy rains up country which lasted over ten days.

YAMEN REFORMS.

An Imperial Edict was issued last year ordering the officials in China to dismiss all their Yamen runners and have them replaced by policemen and soldiers. His Excellency Chau Fu, ex-Viceroy of Canton, on receipt of

the Edict, issued notifications to the officials of all the districts in the Kwangtung Province requesting them to obey the Edict. But on account of insufficient funds allowed to officials by the Government for conducting their offices, no change up to the present moment has been made. The Yamen runners purchase their positions and are a source of income to the officials; hence the unwillingness to make the change.

Recently Viceroy Chang received a communication from the Board of Census in Peking asking him whether the officials had complied with the instructions of the Imperial Edict issued in connection with this matter; if so, to furnish the Board with a full report as soon as possible so that they may go into the questions of expenditure and number of men employed in each yamen, and have the same officially recorded. The Viceroy replied that he would forward to the Board a statement of the requirements of each yamen and the estimated costs of the soldiers and police it will be necessary to maintain.

CANTON MACAO RAILWAY.

The Board of Posts and Communications recently cable instructions to the Local Authorities requesting them to inform Lum Tak Yuen to whom a concession was formerly granted for the construction of the Canton Macao Railway that the Government have decided to give the concession of constructing the railway back to him. The officials replied to the Board that Lum Tak Yuen is dead. It is reported that the concession of this Railway has now been granted to another group of men who are related to His Excellency Tang Shou Yee.

KING EDWARD'S BIRTHDAY.

Mr. Fox, the British Consul-General here, presided over a meeting of British residents in Canton, held at the Canton Club Theatre, yesterday to consider how the King's Birthday on the 9th proximo should be celebrated this year: a representative Committee was formed and it is hoped that this year the King's Birthday will be fittingly celebrated.

TRIAD SOCIETY CAUSING TROUBLE.

A faction of the Triad Society has been causing much trouble to the people in the Yin Tong and Yung Shu Tau towns situated a few miles from the East Gate of Canton City. They drove members of the gentry out of the town Hall in Yin Tong and forcibly took possession of the place and turned it into a gambling house. At Yung Shu Tau the Triad Society pulled down a large vacant military station and removed the materials to a place called Wo g King Tong where the members of the society are erecting a big hall at the foot of a hill.

THE OPIUM QUESTION—AND MORPHIA.

The Minister appointed for the suppression of opium smoking has instructed the Viceroy and governors of all the Provinces in China to cause all anti-opium pills and drugs that are being sold in their provinces to be analyzed and to issue licenses to those only that do not contain morphia. All pills containing substitutes for opium will be confiscated and destroyed. Unlicensed shops will be seized in future, their contents confiscated and the proprietors will be severely punished.

MISSING SCARF PIN.

A European officer of the I. M. Customs out-door staff lost a scarf pin sometime ago and failed to find out who had stolen it. A few days ago he received information that it was pledged in a certain pawn shop. The officer went to the place and it turned out to be correct, but the pawnbrokers refused to allow the officer to redeem the article without a written order from the Nam Hoi Magistrate.

The officer reported the matter to the Commissioner of Customs who wrote to the Nam Hoi requesting that an order be granted empowering the Customs House officer to redeem the stolen scarf pin. The Nam Hoi replied that he would forward an order to the Commissioner. In the meantime the Commissioner of Customs handed the Nam Hoi's letter to the officer, who took it to the pawn shop and redeemed the scarf pin.

On the following day a runner of the Nam Hoi Yamen went personally to the Custom House to deliver the written order

to the Commissioner. On his arrival he was told by the Chief Interpreter that the European officer had already redeemed the scarf pin from the pawn shop on presenting the Nam Hoi's letter. The Yamen runner demanded the usual squeeze tea money, but did not get it.

October 17th.

DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO RAILWAY CONCERNS.

About three years ago the Sunning Railway Company applied to the Board of Commerce (now Board of Posts and Communications) for permission to extend their line from Koong Yik to Fat Shan. The Board of Commerce, after investigation into the matter, replied that they were unable to sanction the request because, in extending their line to Fat Shan, the railway will have to pass Shun Tak, Sun Woi and several other districts, and the privilege to construct a railway in those districts had already been granted to the Portuguese Government in the agreement for the construction of the Canton-Macao Railway, but that permission for extension of their line in those districts would be sanctioned if arrangements could be made with the Portuguese Government after the route had been prospected and measured. In 1906 the agreement between China and Portugal for the construction of the Canton-Macao Railway was cancelled whereupon the Sunning Railway Company immediately petitioned to the newly established Board of Posts and Communications for permission to extend their line from Koong Yik to Pak Shek. On this occasion the Canton-Hankow Railway Company stepped in and objected to the Sunning line being extended. They say that Pak Shek is close to Fat Shan and it is their intention to construct a branch line from Fat Shan to Kongmoon, passing the districts of Shun Tak, Sun Woi, etc.

The Board of Posts and Communications recently sent a dispatch to Viceroy Chang stating that in going through the correspondence in connection with this matter they discovered that the former Board of Commerce had promised the Sunning Railway Company that they would grant them permission to extend the line to Fat Shan, but they were unable to sanction the request at the time as it would interfere with the agreement made with the Portuguese Government in the Canton-Macao Railway. Now that the concession has been cancelled and the Sunning Railway Company has completed their line from Sunning to Koong Yik the Board has decided to sanction the request to extend their line from Koong Yik to Pak Shek. The dispatch states that the Canton-Hankow Railway Co. were unreasonable in objecting to the application. Moreover, they had no locus standi to interfere with the application made by the Sunning Railway Company because the Canton-Hankow Railway Company was not even in existence when the application was made to the Board of Commerce by the former Company. Furthermore the Canton-Hankow Railway Company had practically done nothing since they redeemed the concession from the American Development Company. Finally the dispatch requests the Viceroy to investigate the matter and report to the Board whether the extension applied for by the Sunning Railway is advantageous so that they may sanction the request at an early date.

REHEADED FOR KIDNAPPING.

The prisoner Tai Ah For, who was recently surrendered by the Hongkong Government to the Canton Authorities in a rendition case was taken to the execution ground on the 15th instant and decapitated in the presence of the Nam Hoi Magistrate.

The Director of Military Education in Japan has addressed a circular to Governors of provinces in which he draws their attention to the fact that, as a rule, only the inferior pupils of higher educational establishments adopt the military profession, while the more brilliant students choose an academical career, and requests co-operation in an endeavour to counteract tendency so injurious to the interests of the Empire.

October 20th.

NEW OPIUM REGULATIONS.

The following is a translation of the new opium regulations, drafted by the Chief Superintendent of Police here, which will be enforced when the new license is issued:—

1. All licensed opium smokers are permitted, only once daily, to purchase the allowance of prepared opium specified on the license from any of the licensed prepared opium shops. On the reverse of the wooden license will be attached a piece of paper bearing the year, month and the number of days of the month and upon production of the license to purchase prepared opium, the opium shop will fill in the day the purchase was made, and stamp the chop of the shop over it. If any of the prepared opium shops should be discovered clandestinely selling opium to any person in excess of the quantity specified on a license, or selling any quantity to an unlicensed person, or fails to chop the date of a purchase thereby enabling a license to repeat a purchase of his daily allowance, for each mace of opium and upwards a fine of \$4 will be imposed, half a mace upwards \$2, under half a mace \$1. The fine will be exacted from both sides. For a second offence the fine will be doubled and so progressively for every subsequent fine.

2. An Opium smoker who travels must carry his license with him and must register it with the authorities in charge of such registration on arrival at his destination before purchasing any opium in that place. Failure to do so and any attempt to purchase opium will entail a fine to the extent of half the amounts specified above.

3. No charge will be made for obtaining the licenses. Any smoker discovered smoking opium without holding a license will be fined according to his daily consumption and will receive forty strokes of the bamboo according to the old law (Ta Ching), or according to the new law enforced in the 31st year of Kwong Su, eight days' imprisonment with hard labour, which may be redeemed by a monetary fine; in any case he will be required to undergo "a cure treatment" in appropriate Government establishments.

4. At marriage feasts and other family ceremonies, funerals etc., the host is forbidden to offer opium to his relations or guests and any relation or guest holding a license will not be permitted to smoke opium unless he registers himself at the police station of the district where the ceremony is held. Offenders will be fined half the amounts specified in regulation No. 1.

5. The license must be renewed, if required, annually, and every year the smoker's allowance will be reduced by at least two-tenths. Those who wish to reduce more must report it to the police so that it may be recorded.

6. Any license lost through *force majeure* will be renewed on production of satisfactory evidence; otherwise a second license will be refused. If a license is lent by the holder to any person it will be confiscated and a fine of \$10 will be imposed.

7. Removal of residence must be reported. No charges will be made anywhere for any registration whatsoever.

KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Mr. Harold Porter, H. B. M. Vice-Consul, has issued a notice stating that at the meeting of the General Committee elected to decide upon the manner in which the King's Birthday should be celebrated this year, it was agreed to sub-divide into smaller committees each to be entrusted with the details of a part of the arrangements.

The following are sub-committees appointed:—

1. Sports—Messrs Wallace, Saunders, Drummond, Ross, Purnell, and in addition Captain Walcott, the Senior Naval Officer.
2. Refreshments—Messrs. Griffith, Hill, Butler Wright, Greaves.
3. Music—Messrs Grove, Davenport, Dewstoe.
4. Illuminations—Messrs Thorne and Thomas.
5. General Committee—Messrs. Hyland, Kavarana, Robertson, King and Fox.

The following programme for the day has been proposed by the Committee viz:—Sports in the afternoon in which the sailors of the H. M. ships will participate, and in the evening, if fine, a concert and entertainment in the open air with illuminations and possibly fireworks. There is a prospect of a military band from Hongkong being present on the occasion.

Looking at the expenditure last year it is estimated that the lowest cost at which the celebration can be carried out will be roughly \$800. A subscription list was opened by the members of the Committee and all members of the British Community are invited to add their names to the list.

I hear that up to the present moment \$720 has already been subscribed, so there will be no difficulty in getting the remaining \$80. I understand the members of the Committee have each subscribed \$25. Mr. Harold Porter is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the King's Birthday Fund.

THE BOYCOTT.

Although the Japanese Consul here has written many dispatches to the Viceroy requesting him to devise means to suppress the boycott of Japanese goods, so far, no active or strong measures have been taken by the Provincial Government to crush the boycott. About a fortnight ago, however, there was a rumour in the city spread by some merchants that they had received news from Chinese merchants abroad stating that the differences between the people of the two countries had been amicably settled and that the boycott was to be removed on the 19th instant. These merchants imported large quantities of Japanese goods comprising chiefly sea delicacies and porcelain and had them stored with certain foreign firms on the Shameen and engaged brokers to dispose of them to the dealers in the city. It now turns out that the rumour was without foundation and was spread by a few cunning merchants to make a big speculation. The trick was discovered by the Boycott Union, but, unfortunately, many of the dealers have already been loaded up to the neck with Japanese goods. The dealers are now forwarding their goods up-country with a view of getting rid of them. The merchants who planned the trick hold still large stocks and will find the speculation to be a dead loss to them.

October 21st.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY—A SERIOUS SITUATION

The shareholders of the Canton Hankow Railway Company and the public in general seem to have entirely lost confidence in the management of the Company and it is extremely probable that the Government will have to take over the whole concern before long. The continuous and increasing disputes and quarrels either between the shareholders and the Directors ever since the concession was redeemed from the American Development Company plainly shows the public suspicions regarding the management of the concern.

Since H. E. Chang Chi Tung was appointed Chief Superintendent of the Canton-Hankow Railway he has kept a vigilant eye on affairs here, and his appointment will hasten the concern falling into the hands of the Government, although it might be against his wishes.

The time allowed for the payment of the second instalment on the shares is about to expire and it is reported that, up to the present, the Company has collected a little over \$300,000 out of the \$12,000,000 now due. At present there are no signs that the balance will be forthcoming from the shareholders.

The latest report from Peking is that His Excellency Chang Chi Tung has decided to solve the difficult situation in one of two ways. First he suggests a further extension of two months' time for the shareholders to pay up the second instalment due on the shares; and, in order to restore public confidence, he proposes that advertisements be inserted in all the local press calling upon all persons who hold important positions in the Company to resign their posts; the advertisement would also inform the public that an extraordinary meeting will be convened (after the resignations are sent into the Company) to elect new men in their place. At the meeting any shareholder, though he holds only one share, will have power to vote for the election of the new men. This, it is thought, might inspire confidence in the minds of the shareholders and lead them to pay up the second instalment due on the shares. The alternative is to turn the concern over to the officials to construct the Kwangtung section of the railway. In this case the Government with either have to issue proportionate paid-up

shares to shareholders who have already paid up the first and second instalments, or treat the money paid up by the shareholders as contributions to the Government for which brevet titles will be given to the shareholders in lieu of their interest in the concern; or the Government might issue debentures to the shareholders and treat the money paid by them for the first and second instalments as Government loans.

THE NORTH RIVER FLOOD.

A GREAT CALAMITY.

The Canton Press is full of heart-rending reports about the disastrous North River Flood. It is reported that in the Hoi Ping District alone over 30,000 houses have collapsed and the number of families who are starving and homeless, together with the number of lives lost is something astounding. The serious calamities caused by the flood on this occasion surpass in their magnitude those of the last flood. It is said that several walled cities in the Shui Hing Prefecture, which stood on a high elevation, are inundated with from 10 to 20 feet of water.

A few days ago Fung Ping King, Magistrate at Hoi Ping City, telegraphed to the Viceroy stating that investigation made by him went to show that over 20,000 houses in the Hoi Ping District have been demolished and that the loss of life is very considerable. Words cannot describe the shocking aspect and condition of things in the district. At present immediate relief is absolutely necessary. All local schemes, funds, and efforts to render assistance to the distressed people have been exhausted. The Magistrate earnestly begs His Excellency the Viceroy to forward funds to him to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

Viceroy Chung on receipt of the telegram at once gave instructions to the Directors of the different Bureaus to dispatch deputies posthaste to Hoi Ping and investigate the state of affairs there. Yesterday the Viceroy received reports from the deputies corroborating the statements made by the local Magistrate whereupon His Excellency immediately gave orders to the Provincial Treasurer and the Bureau of Local Affairs to dispatch officers with funds to Hoi Ping to relieve the suffering. The Viceroy also sent dispatches to the Flood Relief Society and the Self Government Association requesting the directors of these institutions to send members of the gentry provided with money and rice to Hoi Ping without delay, to render assistance.

The Directors of the Chamber of Commerce sent a memorial to the Viceroy on the 20th inst., stating that they had received letters and telegrams from the following distressed districts asking for immediate further relief and assistance viz.—Shan Hing, Yan Ping, Ko Yew, Ko Ming, Hoi Ping Sunning, Sun Woi Cheong Sha and Tik Hoi. The petitioners stated that they had already sent many members of the gentry with rice and money to the districts most affected by the flood and added that the people in the Tik Hoi and Cheong Sha Districts had reported to them that robbery is rife and that chaos reigns in these two districts. The Viceroy is requested to send troops to maintain order.

The interport match played at Kobe between teams representing Yokohama and Kobe resulted in a win for the visitors. Kobe in the first innings compiled 201 against Yokohama's 100. In their second innings Yokohama scored 172, but Kobe was dismissed for 70.

The new turbine steamer *Chiyo-maru*, 13,500 tons, has recently most successfully performed her full speed steam trials at Nagasaki. Although the contract speed is 19 knots, which would put her in the front rank of Pacific liners, the mean speed of the vessel for six consecutive runs over the measured distance—about 84 knots—was 20.68 knots an hour. The speed of the fastest run was 21.1 knots. The *Tenyo-maru*, a sister ship, developed a mean speed of 20.603 knots on her official trials, the highest speed attained being 20.905 knots, so that the *Chiyo-maru's* performance was slightly better. The time occupied by the *Chiyo-maru* in stopping from full speed ahead was 3 minutes 42 seconds and she completed a round turn in five minutes, the vessel keeping steady when turning at full speed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE "ROOFLESS NURSERIES"
OF KOWLOON.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—It is high time that steps be taken to remove the smah and child nuisance from the pavements in Kowloon. Everywhere the pedestrian stumbles over infantile humanity unless, perchance, a bundle of cigarette smoking amahs happen to be barracading the sidewalks. Not only is this highly inconvenient to people shopping near the flats, but, pedestrians wishing to get to shelter from the sun, find themselves distinctly blocked.

Again, the noise of the little ones is not the most pleasing to the residents above; nor is the innocent prattle of the high-voiced children combined with the tinny falsetto of their nurses conducive to facile business in the shop. Indeed the clamour is a positive nuisance, especially when anyone is sick with fever or nervous headaches.

That mothers want their offsprings to be out of their way from time to time, is but natural, but why foist them on to others? There is a nice piece of sandy beach on the sea front at Kowloon, and a few spaces also in this suburb which could be utilised by the army of amahs quite easily.

Cannot someone suggest the building of a large matchbox on the open space back of Granville Road, or at the bottom of the road by the Native Infantry Officers' mess? Surely the Authorities might take pity on the rapidly increasing European, and semi-European, community under the age of five. The amahs have nowhere to go; no shelter for the little charges under their care. Can they be blamed?

And, too, why should the street doors and gutters of our otherwise clean roads be turned into open air bath rooms for the children, or, into roofless nurseries? Babies must be dressed, and human nature is human nature with child and adult. It is little short of a scandal allowing well-brought-up little girls to act as they are now so oft seen doing or that their little brothers should be permitted to imitate the sampan woman's boy, who knows no better.

In fine this subject is pertinent to the well being of Kowloon, which, already through the seizure of the beach by the railway, is becoming quickly unfit to live in as a pleasure or sea side Hongkong suburban resort.—Yours &c.

X.

AN INTERESTING DEBATE.

On Thursday a debate of more than ordinary interest took place at the Union Church Hall under the auspices of the Literary Club. The subject discussed was Free Trade, as opposed to Tariff Reform, and the leaders represented the Club and the Y.M.C.A. Debating Society. Mr. B. Shewan advocated free trade and Mr. R. A. Lowry and Captain Baker presented the case for tariff reform. Dr. A. P. Wilder, American Consul-General, presided over a good attendance.

In a racy speech the Chairman opened the proceedings, remarking that it was not strange that nations which had higher standards of living should seek to protect themselves against people of a lower economic order, and it was not strange that communities whose welfare was concentrated in one particular industry believed they would conserve their own welfare by protecting that industry.

Mr. Lowry dealt with tariff reform from the Colonial point of view and argued that preferences would encourage trade with the mother country.

Mr. Shewan admitted that tariff reform was good from the colonial standpoint but contended that it would not be beneficial for the United Kingdom. A tax on food, he declared, would raise the cost of living. Labour, would be more expensive, and Britain would not be able to manufacture as cheaply as she had done.

Mr. Baker followed with the argument that protection would be in the best interests of the United Kingdom.

Rev. C. H. Hickling, Messrs. Bell, Shelton Hooper, Macpherson, Hickling, Humphreys, and others participated in the ensuing debate, and the show of hands revealed a majority of the Y.M.C.A. speakers.

AN EMIGRATION STORY.

It was an American who told the world that "for ways that are dark and tricks that are mean, the Heathen Chinese is peculiar." The tricks that are played in connection with the emigration of Chinese to the United States are illustrations in point; and American Consuls in the Treaty ports of China could probably fill volumes with such stories.

A few days ago the accountant of the Po Lan Fong firm at Canton informed the managing partner, Mr. Tsai Lan Fong that, during his temporary absence from the shop, a respectably-dressed Chinaman had called at the firm in a chair carried by three bearers to inquire if a man named Ngai Ngo, an intending emigrant for San Francisco, was a partner of the firm. The accountant gave a negative answer, adding that all the partners of the firm belonged to one family surnamed Tsai. Fearing that the matter might involve the shop in some trouble the accountant, asked the stranger who had deputed him to make the inquiry. The stranger replied that he was the interpreter of the United States Consulate of Canton and that the man Ngai Ngo had applied to the American Consul for papers to proceed to the United States and had lodged certain documents at the Consulate chopped by the Po Lan Fong firm as guarantors certifying him to be a genuine merchant wishing to proceed to San Francisco to establish a business there. Mr. Tsai Lan Fong has informed the American Consul that he has no knowledge of the matter. He does not know any body by the name of Ngai Ngo, and the chop of his shop on the documents lodged with the Consulate by Ngai Ngo he declared to be a forgery. Inquiries into the affair go to show that an ex-Chinese Consul of San Francisco was at the bottom of it and that this Chinese official has been continually working up emigrants and passing them through the Consulate, thereby making big sums of money.

The matter is now in the hands of the American Consul who will, no doubt, soon bring the offenders to book.

KIDNAPPED.

Inspector Robertson charged a native before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Oct. 22nd with bringing two boys into the Colony by false pretences for the purpose of emigration, or for some other purpose. The defendant, it was stated, beguiled the boys from their homes in Inland China and took them to Fatahan and Canton where he offered them for sale, but without success. He then decided to try to sell them in Hongkong, and brought them here on Wednesday by the river steamer "Kwong Tung." As the trio were entering a house in Third Street between five and six o'clock yesterday morning they were observed by a constable who, thinking that all was not right, called the boys downstairs and questioned them. The boys told him that the man they were with was their elder brother. Then the constable asked their names, and calling the defendant downstairs, asked his name. As different surnames were given, the trio were taken to No. 7 Police Station, and there the boys told the police that the defendant had brought them to Hongkong against their will, but pacified them by promising to take them to the theatre.

His Worship found the defendant guilty, and sentenced him to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

DISTINGUISHED CHINESE
VISITOR.

His Excellency Wen Tsung Yao, better known as Taotai Wen, arrived in Hongkong on the 22nd inst. on his way to Tibet to take up his new position as minister. He was invited to lunch at Mountain Lodge, and the following were invited to meet him:—H. E. Colonel Darling, R.E., Hon. Mr. May, Hon. Mr. Hewett, Commander Vespicelli, Sir Henry Berkeley, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. Harris, Captain Hart-Synnot, Mr. Clementi, and Taotai Woo.

JAPAN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
FORMOSAN TRIBES.

It is estimated, says a Japanese contemporary, as we learn from a translation in the *Japan Mail*, that the Seibans, or the Formosan natives, now living outside the sphere of legal administration, number about 110,000. They are divided into 732 large and small tribes, occupying a region of 1,200 square ri, or 7,500 square miles. Each tribe has its own territory and a sort of assembly-hall, where they hold meetings for the discussion and management of their affairs. Among these savage tribes, the Ataiyaru are the fiercest and most obstinate of all, and consider beheading most honourable. But apart from this tribe and some of the Vonnun and Tairisen near Mt. Morrison who are occasionally guilty of brutality, the majority of the Seibans are comparatively mild, nor is the standard of their knowledge very low. If, therefore, the authorities carry out their intentions, these people might probably be taught at least to be farmers. Although the lines of policy taken by the authorities in dealing with these natives differ from one another owing to their own customs and characteristics, one may classify them briefly under two heads—the evolutionary principle of force, and its opposite. The iron wire entanglements constructed by the Japanese as a means of defence and guard against the natives, are like those used by a force acting on the defensive in war, with an electric current capable of being passed through every wire, while on the saddles of mountains and elevated places are placed field and mountain guns for the purpose of holding the Seibans in check. Two lines of these entanglements have already been made, their total extent being in fact over 180 ri, or 450 miles. One of them begins at the coast of Giran-cho (sho=prefecture) in the east, and on reaching Hachirika and Nanko in the west, turning northwards and passing through the Kushaku districts of Shinko-cho in a round-about way, terminates in the Horisha districts in Nanto-cho; while the other is constructed in the vicinity of Kwansenko in Taiko-cho. It is stated, however, that the authorities are contemplating gradual advancement and extension of these lines. Incapable of withstanding these cunningly devised obstacles, the Seibans are forced back more and more towards the interior mountain ranges, with the result that they have lost all their cultivated fields and are also able to get their food by growing millet and his plants upon steep mountain slopes. It is expected, now that they have no means of obtaining either arms, ammunition, or salt (which is absolutely necessary for life), that they will before long abandon their obstinacy and pledge allegiance to the Sovereign Power.

RECLAMATION OF SEA-FRONT
IN CHEMULPO.

The General Settlement Municipal Council at Chemulpo held a meeting on the 7th inst. to hear the report of the Committee recently appointed in order to carry out enquiries into the petition for reclamation of sea-front along Lot No. 3 of the same settlement. The report of the Committee was in favour of the grant of the petition. The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee in spite of some dissentient voice. Promoters of the plan are leading Japanese residents at Chemulpo. According to the report of the Committee, Resident Shinobu, on behalf of the promoters, gave his word that the land thus reclaimed would be sold by the promoters by auction, for which the minimum price will be represented by the cost plus a reasonable profit, and that all amounts realised above that limit would be presented to the Reserve Funds of the General Settlement. The Council also adopted the representation of the Committee that the petitioners be caused to commence the actual work of reclamation within four months from the date on which the sanction by the Korean Government shall have been obtained.

A petition for the reclamation was filed with the Korean Government on the 8th inst. The promoters are reported as saying that the work will be completed by next spring unless the necessary sanction is much delayed.—*Seoul Press*.

A CRYING EVIL.

We have previously referred to the light of the deportees penned up in the police compound and exposed to the vicissitudes of the climate. On Tuesday four of the men had to be removed to hospital. The marvel is that so few of them have to be treated there. Coming up from a warm climate and exposed to the chill of these colder nights, it is only to be expected that many will be affected by the change and the exposure.

On Wednesday morning another procession was seen filing up Pottinger Street. This was composed of 140 deportees from the Netherlands Indies—over 300 in two days—and many of them looked faint and weary as they struggled up the hill carrying their little all.

These people are not criminals or undesirables in the ordinary sense. They are simply unfortunates who were unable to pay their poll tax, and, poverty in this instance being a crime, they are despatched from the land of their adoption to Hongkong whence they are forwarded to their native places. There is no room for them in the cells and they have to be herded in the compound at the Central Police Station. As many of them arrive sickly and weak this exposure does not do them any good and, as already indicated, it frequently happens that members of the different batches have to be sent to the hospital. Accommodation should be provided for them. The authorities accept responsibility for them during the time they are here and it behoves them to make provision for their wants. There is little to complain of with respect to food. They get three meals a day and are otherwise well looked after. But they have no roof over their heads.

SHANGHAI TRADE.

"A VERY SERIOUS FINANCIAL PANIC."

Messrs. Noel, Murray and Co.'s report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade says:—

At the time our last Report was penned it was scarcely realized that Shanghai was in the throes of a very serious financial panic. This was brought about, to a great extent, apparently, by the rather discreditable failure of a Native Hong, which was expected to involve some of the Native Banks, and caused some of the Foreign Banks to call in their loans. The havoc this was likely to work was fortunately soon seen, and not only were the loans subsequently renewed but further accommodation to a considerable extent granted, this being supplemented by the Taotai. Native interest at one time went up to prohibitive rates, but the measures taken have relieved the situation and rates now, although abnormally high, are greatly reduced. Naturally, notwithstanding the Piece Goods and Yarn trades not being specially involved, the effect was very severely felt, and is adding to the already deplorably depressed state in which the market was in. This of course is chiefly in the curtailment of clearances, many of the Country merchants who have money to invest in goods preferring to loan it out to the Native Banks at handsome interest instead of clearing merchandise. The weather, too, must be held partly responsible for the poor deliveries, and it is much feared that the recent excessive rain fall will seriously affect the crops not already harvested.

Very little has been heard of the "look-out" in Lancashire. According to the latest advices 160,000 operatives and 40,000,000 spindles are involved. In reply to an enquiry from here by cable as to the hope of the termination of the dispute a message received on the 19th inst. stated there was no prospect of an early settlement. Although this may mean a considerable curtailment of the production, an end the spinners were only too willing to bring about, those weavers who spin their own Yarn are not joining in the "look-out" and, though perhaps working short time, are quietly filling what orders they have booked. We think we are correct in saying a fair number of the manufacturers who weave for this trade come under this category, in which case shipments need not necessarily be delayed and this should not be overlooked.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 19th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PRISINE JUDGE).

ROBBERY.

Cheng Cheung was indicted on a charge of robbery.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—C. C. Hickling (foreman), N. F. S. Harms, S. D. Hickie, Tong Tze San, F. T. Chapple, H. F. Chard and E. Abraham.

Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. Denny, of the Crown Solicitor's office, informed the jurors that the facts of the case were extremely simple. On October 9th Li Lai, a foki in an opium divan, was given \$16 by his master to go and purchase some opium. He wrapped it up, together with a book, in a parcel, and went out of the opium divan at about 11.30 in the morning. While walking along Des Voeux Road he was suddenly seized by his queue by one man, another pushing him until he fell down. Li Lai would then say that the prisoner snatched from under his arm the parcel containing the \$16. He followed the man, who ran in a westerly direction, calling after him. On the way two constables joined in the pursuit, and at the corner of a street the prisoner threw down the parcel, which prosecutor picked up. After this he appeared to have run along the Praya and jumped into the sea. This seemed to be a frequent thing for men to do when pursued, and the Attorney-General did not know the object of it. The prisoner was quickly rescued, and handed over to the police.

Prisoner told the Court that he had just returned from Macao. Hearing a disturbance, he went to learn the cause of the trouble. Some people chased him, and becoming frightened he jumped into the sea.

The jury, without retiring, brought in a unanimous verdict of guilty, and his Lordship sentenced the defendant to three years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Tuesday, October 20th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PRISINE JUDGE).

ALLEGED LARCENY.

Ip Pan Nam was indicted on charges of larceny, and receiving stolen property. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called:—W. Nicholls (foreman), H. Buttonjee, H. R. Hartale, F. E. J. G. Jonckheer, J. E. Danielson, J. Witchell and D. M. Neilson.

Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. Denny, of the Crown Solicitor's office, prosecuted the defendant being represented by Mr. H. G. Calthrop, who was instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

The Attorney-General told the jurors the prisoner was before them on a charge of larceny in a dwelling house, and a second count in the indictment charged him with receiving property well knowing the same to have been stolen. Each of those offences was a felony, and it would be for the jury to say, when they heard the evidence, whether the prisoner was guilty of one or other, or both, of the charges. The larceny was from a safe kept in the compradore's department of Messrs. Skott and Co., a well known firm in this Colony. The prisoner was formerly an accountant in the compradore's department, where he had been for some three and a half years. The goods stolen, which consisted of a large sum of money in bank notes (\$2,308), a brown pocket book, a cheque for \$200 and some Nankin stamps, were kept in a safe in the compradore's department. In November last the lock of this safe got out of order, and a new lock was obtained from a locksmith who would be called as a witness. The assistant compradore would tell the jury that when he went out during the time the prisoner was in his employ, he generally left the key in

the prisoner's charge, so that he had ample opportunity, during the time he was in the employment of Messrs. Skott and Co. to take a cast of the key of this safe. On September 18th the assistant compradore went out at about 6.30 in the evening, having locked the door of the safe in the presence of his three younger brothers, who saw him put the money in the safe before going out. He was away about an hour, but, owing to what one of his younger brothers discovered, was sent for. On arriving, his attention was drawn to the safe, the door of which was unlocked, and on examining it he found the articles mentioned had been stolen. Sergeant Appleton, who was called in, found two footprints on the ledge of the window near the staircase, the only other entrance to this room when the door was locked. Suspicion was cast upon the prisoner, presumably owing to the fact that he had been employed there before, and the Canton boats were watched. From information received Sergeant Appleton boarded the French steamer "Charles Hardouin," and there arrested the prisoner on the 21st, three days after the theft took place. When the sergeant arrested him he found \$17 odd on his person, and on proceeding to prisoner's lodgings found in a box a pocket case which was identified by the assistant compradore as his property. It was also identified by a brother of the assistant accountant. The prisoner was subsequently searched and in his socks were found two \$100 notes and two \$10 notes. Whatever one might think of a man being found with money in his socks, which was not uncommon out here, it was at any rate a suspicious circumstance that the prisoner should have so much money on him, when he received a salary of \$13 a month. The prisoner made a statement when charged, in which he denied the theft, saying he went to Canton on the 17th and returned on the 18th. If that was so it would have been impossible for him to have been on the premises on the 18th. When the case came before the Magistrate the prisoner elected to give evidence. He said he bought all the things found on him with his own money, and that somebody had given him the \$100 notes. In cases of this kind it was always difficult to prove identity of the articles, but where a man was found in possession of stolen property which was identified to the satisfaction of the jury, the law then threw upon the prisoner the burden of showing that he became properly possessed of it.

Evidence was called, and the hearing adjourned.

NO INDICTMENT.

The Attorney-General has not filed an indictment in the case in which H. G. Holmes was charged with obtaining \$3,000 by false pretences from Obeung Tam Leung.

OTHER CASES.

The Attorney-General—With reference to any other case that may be tried, I would suggest that the jury might be discharged and told that, if required again, they will be notified. His Lordship accordingly discharged the jurors.

Wednesday, October 21st.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PRISINE JUDGE).

LARCENY.

Ip Pan Nam was indicted on charges of larceny, and receiving stolen property. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called:—W. Nicholls (foreman), H. Buttonjee, H. R. Hartale, F. E. J. G. Jonckheer, J. E. Danielson, J. Witchell and D. M. Neilson.

Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. Denny, of the Crown Solicitor's office, prosecuted the defendant being represented by Mr. H. G. Calthrop, who was instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

Near the close of the case for the Crown, Mr. Calthrop objected to certain questions put in re-examination by the Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General said the questions arose out of cross examination.

Mr. Calthrop asked his Lordship to state a case.

The point was reserved for the Full Court.

Mr. Calthrop then opened the case for the defence. He said he first intended to make some observations on the witnesses for the prosecution, and the way in which the case had been put before the jurors. The learned Attorney-General when he opened the case began by suggesting that one of the grounds for thinking the prisoner had something to do with this robbery was the fact that he was the man who had got the lock and keys originally, and for about six months he had access to this safe. During this period it was suggested that he had probably taken a cast of the key, and with the aid of a third key had opened the safe on the 18th. Counsel suggested the extreme probability of the safe being left open on the night of the 18th. When people left their offices they were always perfectly certain of having looked all their drawers and the safe, but sometimes next morning they found that the safe or some of the drawers were not locked. Counsel submitted that if this was a deliberate and carefully thought out robbery, the robber would have re-locked the safe, thereby causing more delay in the discovery of what happened. He suggested that the whole theory of the prosecution fell to the ground. One of the witnesses called said it was very unusual for anybody to be left in charge of this office. Now this was a compradore's office, and a place where any evil-disposed person would know he had chance of finding some valuables. He suggested that on that night, some person having seen that everyone had left the office gained access, and finding the safe open, took what he thought most valuable, and left.

Prisoner was then called, and said he went to Canton by the s.s. "Paul Beau" on the 17th and returned to Hongkong on the evening of the 18th. He went to Canton to buy fruit. The pocket book produced was his. He bought it thirteen years ago.

Cross-examined, accused said he won \$160 playing fantan at Canton. He hid the note, found in his socks because he was afraid if he went to sleep on board someone would steal them.

Why didn't you put the other \$17 in your socks?—It was in silver.

That was to play fantan on the voyage, or have a little flutter?—No, not on the steamer.

What was the colour of this pocket book you bought?—Pig's liver colour.

His Lordship, in summing up, said this was emphatically a case in which the jury had to balance the facts. The case for the prosecution was based on circumstantial evidence, and *prima facie* was a very strong one indeed. But if the jury found that the material parts of it were met by the defence, there was no doubt that defendant was an innocent man, and that this charge was one which ought never to have been brought. There was nothing to show that on the evening of the robbery, the prisoner knew there would be no one in the compradore's office. If the jury were to find that some of the proceeds of the robbery were in the possession of the prisoner, but believed that he got back from Canton after the robbery, they could not find him guilty on the first charge, but could on the charge of receiving.

After a retirement of five minutes the jury returned into Court and brought in a unanimous verdict of guilty on the first count. They also recommended that the Court should take notice of the satisfactory manner in which the Sergeant (Detective-Sergeant Appleton) had conducted the case.

His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Attorney-General asked his Lordship to make an order for the restoration of the money and stolen property to the prosecutor.

Mr. Calthrop said this could only be done where the property had been identified. It was not proved that this property belonged to the prosecutor.

His Lordship made an order for the return of the pocket book and stamps.

THE SESSIONS ADJOURNED.

His Lordship asked the Attorney-General if he intended to proceed with the other case on the calendar—that was, the charge of manslaughter preferred against Chung I in connection with the building collapse at Shaukiwan.

The Attorney-General asked his Lordship to adjourn the Sessions *sine die*.
The Sessions were accordingly adjourned.

Thursday, October 22nd.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPHEZ
(ACTING PRINCIPAL JUDGE).

A PASSAGE TO MEXICO.

The hearing concluded of the case in which Lo Sau Ting sued the Ying Tak Leung to recover \$152, balance of amount paid to defendant for a passage to Salina Cruz.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Goldring, Birlow and Morrell) represented the defendants.

The managing partner of the defendant firm was recalled, and further cross-examined by Mr. Gardiner. He said his firm did not do any business in passage brokerage.

Mr. Gardiner placed the firm's ledger before witness and asked—Is there an entry there, "Received from various passengers commission for passages, \$10"?—Yes, but that is not passage brokering by us.

Further on there is another passenger entry for \$245?—That is for goods.

Mr. Gardiner asked about another entry, which the witness said was not in the book.

Mr. Morrell—These translations are not certified by the Court translator. They are made by my friend's interpreter, and don't seem to tally.

His Lordship—If the entry is not there, there is no use arguing.

Mr. Morrell—It seems to argue a fertile imagination on the part of the interpreter.

After further evidence was heard his Lordship gave judgment for the defendant.

PRESENTS OR PURCHASES?

S. E. Allana and Co. sued Miss M. Hayden of Wyndham Street to recover \$274.56 for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. G. E. Morrell for the defendant.

Mr. Morrell raised a preliminary objection on the ground that the writ was issued in the firm name, and on his applying for the names of the partners, in accordance with the Code, he received a letter from Mr. Dixon stating that Allana was the sole partner. According to the Code and the White Book a person could be sued, but could not sue in his trade name. Therefore he applied to have the action dismissed with costs.

Mr. Dixon said he anticipated this preliminary objection. The writ was not issued by him, but by his client, and the mistake was a reasonable one to be made by a man who did not know the technical forms that must be complied with. Under section 695 of the Code his Lordship had power to amend the writ. Plaintiff had not been embarrassed in any way by this technical mistake, and Mr. Dixon asked his Lordship for leave to amend.

After further argument his Lordship gave leave to amend, but stated that, should the case end in favour of the plaintiff, costs would not be allowed up to the date of amendment.

Mr. Dixon, in opening, said the claim was for goods sold between the 1st and 22nd August. Some of the goods were ordered by defendant personally, while others were ordered by letter. On September 19th the bill was sent to her, and on the 20th she called at plaintiff's shop and had an interview with plaintiff and his bookkeeper. She told them that she was hard up, but would pay the bill on October 1st. Plaintiff told her he did not intend to wait so long, and issued a writ.

Plaintiff was then called and gave evidence that the amount claimed was due and owing.

Then Mr. Morrell proceeded with the cross-examination:

Is your business a prosperous one?—That's my business.

Answer the question please!—I won't answer unless his Lordship directs me.

His Lordship directed plaintiff to answer, and he replied—Yes, it is good.

Where were you born?—I cannot answer that.

Where were you born in India?—I cannot tell you. Where were you brought up?—That I cannot tell you.

You were brought up somewhere; where did you live till you were a boy?—I cannot tell you.

Mr. Morrell—Can you tell anything? My Lord, will you direct this witness to answer questions. He apparently refuses to answer anything.

His Lordship ordered the witness to answer. Mr. Morrell—Where were you brought up?—In Bombay.

When did you come to Hongkong?—Two or three years ago.

Why did you come?—It was my own wish. Question repeated.—I wanted to come.

I'll tell you the reason you came; your brothers kicked you out for being a waster, is not that so?—It's untrue.

Mr. Dixon did not know why these questions were being asked.

Mr. Morrell said he intended to shake the credit of the witness entirely. There were a number of bills, but there was a very good defence to them, but he did not want to disclose it until he had finished with the witness. He would show that he was not fit to be believed either on oath, or without oath.

Mr. Dixon—I know my friend's client can throw much more mud than we can, and it sticks to us. What my friend is trying to elicit from this witness is not connected with the case. I don't want to say anything about the character of my friend's client, and submit he is not entitled to examine mine regarding his character. If the characters of both parties were sifted my friend's client wouldn't come off best.

Mr. Morrell—If I must disclose my defence I will. It is that this man did not sell these goods to my client, but gave them to her.

His Lordship—Is your client going to say that on oath?

Mr. Morrell—Certainly, my Lord. My defence is that they were given her with a view to getting certain favours.

Mr. Dixon—I don't think my friend is entitled to attack the character of my client simply because his client denies the claim.

His Lordship—His case is that the whole claim is a bogus one.

Mr. Morrell—And when the plaintiff found he could not get what he wanted he said he sold the goods to my client. I will call evidence to show that he gave her the goods.

His Lordship said he would allow the questions, and the cross-examination was continued. You understand English perfectly well, don't you?—Enough to carry on my business.

Do you still deny that you were turned out of Bombay by your brothers?—Yes.

When you came here what did you do?—My father sent me here.

Then it was your father who turned you out?—Nobody turned me out.

When you came here didn't you go as an assistant to O. C. Moosa in D'Aguiar Street?—No.

You did, and overdrew your pay, and a writ was issued against you.—It was afterwards settled.

Where did you get the money to start in business on your own?—That I cannot tell you.

Question repeated.—I cannot tell you about my private affairs.

Mr. Morrell—Will your Lordship ask him to answer?

His Lordship—Why?

Mr. Morrell—The man is absolutely on his last legs. He is suing now because he must get money from somewhere.

Witness was ordered by the Court to answer the question, and said—If you want me to buy your firm I can buy it. You say I haven't enough money.

Mr. Morrell—I want to know where you got the money to start your firm?—It is not your business.

His Lordship ordered the witness to answer. Witness—From an English firm.

Mr. Morrell—You got the money from Moosa e Vieira who is now bankrupt?—It is untrue.

The other day you were convicted at the Police Court for disorderly behaviour, weren't you?—Yes.

You spend a great part of your time here in disorderly houses, don't you?—

Mr. Dixon objected to the question.

His Lordship said he could not disallow it. Question repeated—I do occasionally. You go there very often?—No, I don't. Do you allege that you sold all the goods set out in this bill to my client from your shop?—Yes.

Do you remember going to a Japanese shop a few doors up from your place with my client?—I want to buy something for her as she had an account with me, and she said the Japanese wouldn't give her credit.

You went with her, told her to take what she liked, and said you would pay?—It's untrue.

Counsel proceeded to question plaintiff with regard to certain customers and asked:

Do all your customers pay cash except my unfortunate client?—I give credit to most of my customers.

Do you know witnesses are going to be called to contradict all you are saying?—Call them.

At this stage the hearing was adjourned.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

THE AMERICAN FLEET.

EXPERIENCES IN THE TYPHOON.

ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, October 17th.

The "Kohumin" (newspaper) has received a wireless message stating that the American Fleet encountered a very severe gale north of Luzon on the morning of the 12th inst.

The lifeboats of three battleships were carried away and a gunner of the "Rhode Island" was washed overboard.

Two bluejackets, who were wearing lifebelts, were also washed overboard.

On the afternoon of the 14th inst. the sea calmed down.

On the night of 15th Admiral Saito was able to get in touch with the Fleet by wireless telegraphy and extended to them a welcome to Japan which Admiral Sperry acknowledged.

Tokyo, October 18th.

The first day of the reception to the American visitors closed with great success. The Fleet arrived at 9.30 and was escorted by the battleship "Soya" and a flotilla of destroyers.

The Fleet was welcomed with unprecedented enthusiasm. Yokohama was alive with hundreds of thousands of people, the streets were ablaze with colour, flags were exhibited in great profusion, and innumerable triumphal arches erected.

Admiral Sperry visited the "Mikasa" at 10.30 and warmly shook hands with Admiral Ijuin amid the booming of cannon and the music of the bands.

The brilliant sunshine contributed much to day's success.

Tokyo, October 19th.

Admiral Sperry and his principal officers on arrival at Shimabashi station to-day were received by thousands of officials. Outside the station enormous masses of people had assembled and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

Two thousand five hundred men were given a day's leave to visit the capital.

In the afternoon the Ambassador (Mr. Thomas J. O'Brien) gave a garden party to which all the Americans resident in Tokyo were invited, to meet Admiral Sperry.

TOKYO, October 25th.

The American Fleet departed to-day.

The First Squadron to leave proceed to Manila, and the 2nd Squadron which goes to Amoy left shortly afterwards.

During the week there has been a continual round of pleasure for the officers and men who have been inexpressibly gratified.

After the departure of the Fleet the Mayor of Tokyo sent a wireless message to Admiral Sperry conveying the congratulations of the people upon the success of the visit and wishing the Fleet bon voyage.

The visit will long be remembered by the Americans as being essentially a people's welcome.

DEATH OF MARSHAL NODZU.

Tokyo, October 18th.

Count Nodzu, a marshal in the Japanese Army, died on the 18th inst.

THE RECENT REGRETTABLE INCIDENT IN KOREA.

Tokyo, October 25th.

The Resident General of Korea (Prince Ito) has granted compensation to the extent of one thousand yen for each family bereaved by the recent shooting incident in Korea when several pilgrims who were mistaken for insurgents were killed by a Japanese patrol.

INTERPORT CRICKET MATCH.

The match was played this year at Shanghai on the 21st and 22nd inst. Fine weather favoured the occasion.

The match resulted in the defeat of the visitors by ten wickets. The full scores are as follows:

SHANGHAI XI.	
H. B. Ollerdassen, b Sharp	6
W. H. Moule, b Sharpe	16
Capt. E. I. M. Barrett, b Bird	27
L. Walker, c Houghton, b Bird	6
R. N. Anderson, b Sharp	74
V. H. Lanning, run out	26
O. D. Rasmussen, b Bird	3
McEuen, l.b.w., b Bird	3
Harrison, c Bird, b Sharpe	10
A. F. Wheen, b Sharpe	4
G. M. Billings, not out	33
Extras	20
Total	228

HONGKONG XI.	
A. A. Claxton, b Lanning	11
W. C. D. Turner, c Lanning, b Rasmussen	5
Lt. E. J. H. Houghton, c Lanning, b Rasmussen	0
A. E. Lanning, b Rasmussen	0
R. O. Hutchinson, l.b.w., b Rasmussen	2
Lt. G. R. Home, 3rd Mid. Regt., c Rasmussen, b Lanning	1
W. Edwards, c Harrison, b Rasmussen	37
Bandeman Barton, 3rd Mid. Regt., run out	6
R. E. O. Bird, c Walker, b Rasmussen	1
A. W. J. Peake, not out	0
Corpl. Sharpe, 3rd Mid. Regt., b Rasmussen	0
Extras	8
Total	74

BOWLING ANALYSES.

HONGKONG		
	Wickets	Runs
Bird	4	77
Sharpe	5	57
Barton	—	34
Peake	—	40
	9	208

SHANGHAI.		
	Wickets	Runs
Rasmussen	7	29
Lanning	3	36
Billings	0	1

HONGKONG—SECOND INNINGS.	
Edwards, c Moule, b Billing	2
Lanning, b Lanning	62
Houghton, c McEuen, b Lanning	30
Turner, l.b.w. Rasmussen	3
Claxton b Rasmussen	10
Hutchinson, b Lanning	0
Home, c Harrison b Billings	11
Barton, b Harrison	4
Bird, b Harrison	3
Peake b Rasmussen	21
Sharpe, not out	1
	163

SHANGHAI—SECOND INNINGS.	
Parrett, not out	2
Ollerdassen not out	0
Extras	4
	6

INTERPORT TENNIS.

Shanghai, October 25th.

Hongkong won in both Tennis matches. In the singles Carr beat Saunders 6-4, 7-5, 7-5. In the doubles C. A. Carr and Capt. Hensley beat Wheeler and Fearon 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-1.

TESTING OF STEAM PIPES.

An important rider, relative to the testing of steam pipes in the Colony, was added to its verdict on Oct. 20 by a jury who sat to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of a coolie who was killed by the bursting of a steam pipe at Aberdeen Paper mills on October 8th. Mr. Kemp conducted the inquiry and the jurors were Messrs. H. L. Muhle, W. C. Jack and R. R. Hynd.

Mr. Crake, marine surveyor, stated that steam pipes on land were not tested and suggested that they ought to be tested every four years.

The manager said the pipes were covered with asbestos and had not been tested.

His Worship said he did not propose to call any other evidence. He called the inquiry to ascertain whether there had been any neglect in not testing the pipes, but the evidence did not disclose any neglect on the part of the manager or the engineer. He had also called the inquiry with a view to considering the advisability of making some regulations with regard to the use of cast iron for steam pipes and also with regard to providing for the testing of steam pipes.

Mr. Jack said that boilers on land ought to be subject to the same Government supervision as those afloat. There were boilers in the centre of the town that were absolutely neglected and a serious accident might occur any day. Many steam pipes were put in by Chinese that would be condemned if there were any Government supervision.

His Worship thought it was a good thing to draw attention to that.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure and found there had been no negligence on the part of anyone. They added that boilers and steam pipes on land ought to be subject to supervision just as those afloat were.

FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

OVER-ZEALOUS INTERPRETATION OF GOVERNMENT ORDER.

We learn from Chinese Public Opinion that the order from the Throne objecting to the mapping and surveying of the country by foreigners has had an extremely unpleasant effect upon the ordinary foreigner holiday seeking at the usual resorts in the Chengtu district. Certain of the officials are interpreting it in an altogether excessive manner and are attempting to drive foreigners out of all such resorts, temples and other places which they have hitherto put up at in the mountains for a month or so, recuperation being closed to them, and the orders being ordered, with threats of dire penalties in case of non-compliance, to refuse to leave accommodation to the foreigner. This situation has been caused by the exceedingly grabbed versions of the Imperial Decree published in the Chinese press. "We hear much of the issuance of Press laws for China," says our contemporary, "and these are undoubtedly a necessity, but the primary consideration is an examination to prove the competence of the editorial staff of most native journals, not from a literary standpoint only but as having sufficient knowledge and common sense to guide aright the populace who read their journals. The inflammatory productions of the irresponsible who conduct the Press in the Chengtu district led to a decision being taken by the populace of Kuanhsien that on the 20th day of the 7th moon all foreigners there were to be killed. This has, however, been frustrated, though a feeling of unrest still prevails and all sorts of anti-foreigner rumours circulate in the district."

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Large demands having come forward, the prices are going upward.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.10	to	\$5.20
" Round, Good quality ..	5.00	to	50.5
" Long	5.10	to	5.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2...	4.60	to	46.5
" Garden, " No. 1...	4.80	to	4.90
" White,	5.00	to	5.15
" Fine Cargo	5.65	to	5.75

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, October 20th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1250/1280	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1290/1300	do.
Malwa Older	\$1310/1320	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1330/1350	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$880	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$930	do.
Patna New	\$1200	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1110	do.
Benares Old	\$1110	do.

FOOCHOW, 9th October, 1908, business during the week is summarised as under:—

Stock on 1st October, 1908

Malwa chests	43
Patna chests	10
Benares chests	13
Persian chests	62
Total	128

Imported during the week

Malwa chests	35
Patna chests	14
Benares chests	1
Persian chests	23
Total	73

Sales during the week

Malwa chest	33
Patna chests	8
Benares chests	4
Persian chests	27
Total	72

Estimated Stocks

Malwa chests	45
Patna chests	16
Benares chests	10
Persian chests	58
Total	129

Quotations

Malwa chests, new \$1,300 a 1,360, old \$1,400
Patna chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,220 a 1,245
Benares chests, piculs \$1.20, new \$1,190 a \$1,200, old \$1,220
Persian chests, \$900 a \$980, paper.

KEROSENE.

FOOCHOW, 9th October, 1908.—Imported since 1st June 2,843,080 gallons, as against 2,195,828 gallons for the corresponding period of last year.

FLOUR.

FOOCHOW, 9th October.—During the week 11,990 bags were imported, bringing the total since 1st June up to 202,915 which is a decrease compared with the 226,484 bags for the same period of 1907.

YARN.

FOOCHOW, 9th October, 1908.—During the week there were imported 813 piculs Indian, 120 piculs Hongkong and 77 piculs native as compared with 188 piculs Indian, and 258 Hongkong native for the corresponding week last year. The total imported since 1st June is 9,618 piculs as against 14,623 for the corresponding period last year.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 16th October, 1908, states:—At the time our last Report was penned it was scarcely realised that Shanghai was in those of a very serious financial panic. This was brought about, to a great extent, apparently, by the rather discreditable failure of a Native

Hong, which was expected to involve some of the Native Banks, and caused some of the Foreign Banks to call in their loans. The havoc this was likely to work was fortunately soon seen, and not only were the loans subsequently renewed but further accommodation to a considerable extent granted, this being supplemented by the Taotai. Native interest at one time went up to prohibitive rates, but the measures taken have relieved the situation and rates now, although abnormally high, are greatly reduced. Naturally, notwithstanding the Piece Goods and Yarn trades not being specially involved, the effect was very severely felt, and in addition to the already deplorably depressed state in which the market was in. This of course is chiefly in the curtailment of clearances, many of the Country merchants who have money to invest in goods preferring to loan it out to the Native Banks at handsome interest instead of clearing merchandise. The weather, too must be held partly responsible for the poor deliveries, and it is much feared that the recent excessive rain fall will seriously affect the crops not already harvested. In addition to our local troubles the unrest in other parts of the world cannot be entirely ignored, if for no other reason the effect on the Silver market is quite sufficient. The very serious state of affairs in the South-East of Europe is pregnant with the most dire consequences and may develop into a disastrous war if not handled with the greatest care. The Presidential election in the United States of America is another potent factor which is exerting, as on former occasions, a world wide influence on trade, the uncertainty being so great as to whether the new administration will not cause drastic changes to be made in the tariffs and business methods at present in force. Already one of the candidates is making important pronouncements regarding the future attitude towards this country and the kindly interest he intends to take its affairs. If he is elected. Anything will be better than the present state of "drift" that seems to be the policy of most of the interested Powers at present. Very little has been heard of the "look-out" in Lancashire According to the latest advices 160,000 operatives and 40,000,000 spindles are involved. In reply to an enquiry from here by cable as to the hope of the termination of the dispute a message received on the 12th inst. stated there was no prospect of an early settlement. Although this may mean a considerable curtailment of the production, and the spinners were only too willing to bring about, those weavers who spin their own Yarn are not joining in the "lock-out" and though perhaps working short time are quietly filling what orders they have booked. We think we are correct in saying a fair number of the manufacturers who weave for this trade come under this category, in which case shipments need not necessarily be delayed; this should not be overlooked. Meanwhile the Manchester market keeps very steady Hornby's 8 5-lbs. Shirtings only showing a decline of a penny, namely 6s. 4½d, while Calvert's 10-lbs. are unchanged at 10s. 0d. Nothing further of any importance has been done for this market since the fairly free purchase in September. The progress of the Liverpool Cotton market is being watched with interest. The condition of the American crop at the end of September was about up to the average and it is now fully anticipated that the commercial crop will amount to something over 14,000,000 bales, the largest on record. The 'spot' price in Liverpool yesterday was 5.02d, the quotation received on the 9th inst. for October 'futures' being 4.88d, while to-day the January/February price for middling, good ordinary clause, comes 4.56d Egyptian is steady at 7½d. The export of Plain Cottons from Lancashire for the fortnight ending 9th inst. was 13,000,000 Yards, a slight increase on the two previous periods. The market is keeping very steady in New York with just a trifling decline in some makes of light weights. Cotton is rather firmer, 852 cents for January and 8.50 cents for March being the latest quotations, but there is a downward tendency owing to the heavy arrivals of the new Crop. As regards current business the dealers are in a most pessimistic mood, the outlook being far from promising. All branches of trade are in precisely the same condition and it is becoming more and more manifest that flooding the country with inferior copper cash is largely responsible for the distress now prevailing. It is well known that large sums of money loaned out to the dealers here by the Native Banks are due for repayment this month, and under present circumstances there is but little chance of renewals being granted. The situation is really desperate and every one is at a loss to know how to act. The Outports appear to be in just as bad a plight,

and to make matters worse Japan is sending direct shipments to Hankow and Tientsin and underselling the holders of similar goods here. It is positively stated also by a prominent native connected with the trade who has just returned from a visit to Tientsin that the pernicious credit system is being countenanced there again! We have quite failed in getting particulars of any business that may have been done privately so must refer to the usual Auctions. At the Yuen Fong sale on the 8th inst. the tendency was lower in to the Grey and White goods and also the Fast Black Cotton Italians and Venetians. For Turkey Reds, which are getting very scarce now, there is a decidedly stronger feeling and prices are distinctly higher. To-day's sale at Ewo did not show much kick in the prices obtained for Cotton goods, though in a few cases fair advances were paid, but the individual quantities are too small to be any criterion of the market. Woollen goods were weaker all round.

EXPORTS.—

TEA.

FOOCHOW, 9th October 1908.—During the week the following settlements have taken place: Congous, 2,376 half chests; Souchongs, 2,107 half chests; Oolongs, 552 half chests, scented teas 300 boxes; and Flowery Pekoes, 42 chests. This season's stocks comprise 46,840 half chests Congou, 10,545 half chests Souchong, 34,775 half chests Oolong, 858 boxes scented teas, and 154 chests Pekoe.

CAMPHOR OIL.

FOOCHOW, 9th October.—No fresh business is reported.

CAMPHOR.

FOOCHOW, 9th October, 1908.—There has been exported during the week 50 piculs, bringing the total since 1st June up to 2,748 piculs, as compared with 5,933 piculs for the same period in 1907.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—There is no buyer and the quotation is the same as when last reported.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 23rd October, 1908.—During the week's interval which has elapsed since our last, business in shares has been almost at a standstill, and there are few transactions to report. Rates on the whole have however remained fairly steady, and at the close are without material alteration. The London rate for Bar Silver is quoted to-day at 23½d, with sterling T. T. at 1/9½d, and on Shanghai at 75½ T.T.

BANKS.—Small sales of Hongkong & Shanghai are reported at \$80, market closing with probable sellers. The London rate remains at £80. Nationals continue at \$51 buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A small sale of Unions at \$785 has been effected, but otherwise there has been nothing done in this section. There are buyers of Yangtases at \$160, and of North Chinas at the improved rate of Tls. 83 ex div.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Sales of Hongkong at \$335 are reported, but at this figure more shares are procurable. Business has been done in Chinas at \$95 and \$96, and these shares can now be placed at \$97.

SHIPPING.—We have heard of no business under this head, and there is no change of importance in quotations to report. Shells might perhaps be placed at 45s, but there is no business offering, and the quotation is more or less nominal.

REFINERIES.—China Sagar have been booked at the reduced rate of \$115, but at this figure there are buyers, and few shares appear available. Luzons can still be procured at \$32.

MINING.—Rauha continue unchanged with sellers at \$7 after reported sales at \$6½ and \$6½, with buyers at the latter rate. Charcoenages are still in request at \$380. Chinese Engineerings are weak with sellers at Tls. 16.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$93, but at this quotation are weak with sellers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves after sales at \$50, \$49½ and \$49, are on offer at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks and Shanghai Docks are

unchanged, but Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves are firmer with buyers in the North at Tls. 153. LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$94, and there are further sellers at the rate. No business in other stocks under this head is reported and quotations are without change.

COTTON MILLS.—Nothing has been done in this section locally. Hongkongs are procurable at \$10½, but at \$10 there are buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have again been done at \$10, and more share are procurable at this figure. Ropes have declined to \$24 sellers, and China Light and Powers to \$5½ sellers. Powells are on offer at \$5, and Watkins at \$2½. Steam Laundries can be procured at \$5 ex dividend.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$800
National B. of China	28	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos Co.	12s. 6d.	\$8, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$6½, sellers
China Provident	\$1	\$9½, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 81
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 240
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$24, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$49, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$93, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 82, in S'hai
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 152, in S'hai
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$185, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$77, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$200
China Fire	\$20	\$96, sales & buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335
North China	25	Tls. 84, buyers
Union	\$100	\$790
Yangtze	\$80	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sales & sel.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fos. 250	\$580, buyers
Raub	18/10	\$7, sellers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$120, sellers
Luson Sugar	\$100	\$22, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$37½
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$17½
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24½
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$7	\$5, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$3, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

15th October, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$820, sellers
National of China	28	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 82, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$167½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$94, buyers ex 73
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	210	Tls. 27, sellers Tls. 13, sellers
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$22.50, sellers
& Trading { pref. }	10	\$29.10, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord. }	T50	Tls. 43, sellers
Lighter ... { pref. }	T50	Tls. 52, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 82, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 154, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$49, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 90, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	21	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 16, sellers
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 115, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Wahhaiwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 98, buyers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 65, sellers
International	T75	Tls. 60, sellers
Laon Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 75, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 240, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 119, sellers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 42, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 50, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$104, sellers ex 73
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 640, sales
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 115, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	220	T. 395, ex d. sell.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$25, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 61, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$29.00, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holts	\$20	\$20½, sellers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$12, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Montrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 7, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$160, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 57, buyers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Rep- pository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending October 15th, state:—Our share market has not been very active during the week, and there is not much alteration to report. The stringency of the money market referred to last week has become lessened, and its effect has not yet been felt in our stocks. Banks.—H. & S. Banks.—These have advance during the week to \$820. Insurance.—There is no business reported. Shipping.—There is no business reported. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co.—Sellers have prevailed and the rate has declined to Tls. 82 for October, with sellers at Tls. 85 for December. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—There has been practically no change since our last report. A fair number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 154 for cash. Sales are reported for December at Tls. 158½ and Tls. 157½ closing with sellers at the latter figure. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Co.—A few shares are on offer at Tls. 90. Mining.—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co.—A transaction is reported at Tls. 162½ for cash. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co.—A good business has been done at Tls. 115 and more shares are wanted at this price. Anglo-French Land have been placed at Tls. 97½. Industrial.—Two Cottons.—Business was done in the early part of the week at Tls. 64½ for October and Tls. 68½ for December, but the market has somewhat weakened since, the last reported transaction being at Tls. 67½ for December. International Cottons.—A fair number of shares have been on the market; there are sellers for cash at Tls. 61; for December at Tls. 62½. Shanghai Gas Co. have improved to Tls. 119. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkat.—There has been hardly any business done and rates remain nominal at Tls. 650 for cash and Tls. 665 for December. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Rates have varied a good deal. For cash sales at Tls. 120 and the same rate for December. The market weakened and the last rate reported was Tls. 115 for cash and Tls. 118 for December. Shanghai Waterworks.—There are buyers at Tls. 395. Kalumpang Rubber Co.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 61. Miscellaneous.—The rates of these various stocks will be found below. Loans and Debentures.—The only transaction reported is a sale of Astor House Seven per cent debentures par.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, October 26th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	221½
Credits 4 months' sight	226
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank, on demand	133½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133
Bank on demand	133½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	86½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	12½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	12 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	87
SWERIGHS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.15
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per toal	\$58.85
BAR SILVER per os	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.87
	10 " "	5.50
Hongkong	20 " "	2.80
	10 " "	2.80

FREIGHT.

Hoihow, 14th Oct.—Per Conference Steamers—
To London and Northern Continental ports 45/-
per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa,
Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus
river freight. To New York (via Suez) General
Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight.
To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/8 per ton of 40
cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland)
per carload, Tea G. \$14 cents per lb gross; less
than carload Tea G. \$14 cents per lb gross; plus
river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General
Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or
measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

- 15, Anhui, British str., from Hoilo.
- 15, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 15, Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.
- 15, Lightning, British str., from Singapore.
- 15, Machson, British str., from Singapore.
- 15, Onsang, British str., from Moji.
- 15, Canton, Swedish str., from Europe.
- 15, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
- 15, Delta, British str., from Bombay.
- 15, Forest Dale, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 15, Glenlochy, British str., from Singapore.
- 15, Kagoshima M., Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 15, P. Sigismund, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 15, Senegambia, Ger. str., from Singapore.
- 17, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Eastern, Br. str., from Australian Ports.
- 17, Foosbing, British str., from Chefoo.
- 17, Hopsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 17, Joshin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 17, Kaifong, British str., from Hoilo.
- 17, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Yochow, British str., from Amoy.
- 18, Alcinous, British str., from Yokohama.
- 18, Amiral Olry, French str., from Anvest.
- 18, Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 18, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
- 18, Tango Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 18, Hallan, French str., from Hoihow.
- 19, Keongwai, German str., from Swatow.
- 19, Ofabard, Norwegian str., from Spore.
- 19, Silesia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Kutchinotsu.
- 19, Tranquebar, Danish str., from Moji.
- 20, Achilles, British str., from Ch. foo.
- 20, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 20, Bujan Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
- 20, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Langkat.
- 20, Kohsiching, German str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
- 20, Tjikini, Dutch str., from Balik Papan.
- 21, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 21, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 21, Glenfarg, British str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 21, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
- 21, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Quintia, German str., from Batavia.
- 21, Zieten, German str., from Yokohama.
- 22, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 22, Indrani, British str., from Newchwang.
- 22, Kalgai, British str., from Chefoo.
- 22, Kiukiang, British str., from Amoy.
- 22, Kleist, German str., from Hamburg.
- 22, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
- 22, Wöngkoi, German str., from Bangkok.

October—

DEPARTURES.

- 16, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 16, Glenturret, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 16, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 17, Asia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Assaye, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Benavon, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 17, Delta, British str., for Europe, &c.
- 17, Empire, British str., for Australia Ports.
- 17, Empress of India, Br. str., for Vancouver.
- 17, Glenlochy, British str., for London.
- 17, Halman, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Kamsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 17, Kwanglo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Marmouthshire, Br. str., for Bangkok.
- 17, Porters, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Ruff, British str., for Manila.

- 17, Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
- 17, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 17, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 18, Chipshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Hinraug, British str., for Saigon.
- 18, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 18, Kagoshima M., Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 18, Loksun, German str., for Swatow.
- 18, Machson, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Nanchang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Phenpen, British str., for Saigon.
- 18, Senegambia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
- 19, Amiral Olry, French str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Appalachee, British str., for Polo Laut.
- 19, Canton, Swedish str., for Shanghai.
- 19, Fritjof, Norwegian str., for Tonggo.
- 19, Indrani, British str., for Singapore.
- 19, Katharine Park, British str., for Manila.
- 19, Shantung, German str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Yermio Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
- 20, Anhui, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Asama, British str., for Whampoa.
- 20, China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Knivsberg, German str., for Swatow.
- 20, Lightning, British str., for Shanghai.
- 20, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 20, Toonau, Chinese str., for Amoy.
- 21, Alcinous, British str., for Liverpool.
- 21, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 21, C. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
- 21, Eastern, British str., for Moji.
- 21, Gilbert, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 21, Hallan, French str., for Tientsin.
- 21, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
- 21, Silesia, German str., for Singapore.
- 21, Tranquebar, Danish str., for Saigon.
- 22, Bujan Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 22, Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
- 22, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
- 22, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 22, Zieten, German str., for Europe, &c.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per China, from Trieste, Rev. Y. M. Vay.
Per Ktukung, from Amoy, Mr. L. Mouret.
Per Tungshing, from Weihaiwei, Dr. W. Must.
Per Mathilde, from Pakhoi, Messrs Wadman and Bettens.
Per Tean, from Manila, Messrs A. L. Banows and H. Naftaly.
Per Choysang, from Shanghai, Rev. Father Vacquiere and servant.
Per Cheongshing, from Tientsin, Major Brogden and Captain Crichton.
Per Kue chow, from Tientsin, &c., Mr. Tiedmann 3 children and servants.
Per Yochow, from Shanghai &c., Mr. & Mrs. Gellager and children, Mr. Erskine.
Per Tjikini, from Balik Papan, Mrs. Luyka and 2 children, and Miss L. Bowtell.
Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Miss B. A. Ross, Dr. Macaulay, Messrs. Watson and Thomas.
Per A. Apcar, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs J. W. Graham, C. Stephen, C. F. Smith and R. Mackertich.
Per Gregory Apcar, from Yokohama &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. Seth, Miss E. Taylor, Miss M. Arnold, Mr. E. Watkins; for Singapore, Mr. Ruehwaldy, Mrs. Husted; for Calcutta, Mr and Mrs. Stephens and Miss Agobig.
Per Zafiro, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Barrett, Mr and Mrs Melrose, Mr and Mrs Adson, Dr and Mrs Brunkley, Mrs V. Yondon, Mrs P. Hayden, Misses C. Davies and Ward, Dr Mowberly, Messrs Postsch, G. N. Wolfson, S. Armotony, Mercki, Wilson, E. Schmidt, C. N. O'Brien, Fernandez and F. Garag.
Per Kleist, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Miss H. Grotelend and Mr Albert Solé; from Southampton, Miss H. Underhill, Messrs A. Fos land, James Henderson and David Ritchie; from Genoa, Misses T. Lombardo, A. Villota and E. Mendes, Messrs T. Elmalde and party, O. Kraft, G. Bornand, Karl Fritz, Karl Richensacker, F. Gonres, H. Schmitzer, H. Ventske and Master A. Esnard and party; from Colombo, Mr and Mrs P. Felson, Messrs Hokyng and T. Joseph; from Penang, Mr V. Recken; from Singapore, Misses J. C. Castle, P. H. Wilcox and A. Dal, Messrs S. Yoshik, G. D. Melville, R. M. S. Ali, F. N. Robins and D. H. Perkins.

Per Keongwai, from Swatow, Head Superin-
tendent of N.D.L. Mr. Krebs.

Per Tango Maru, from San Francisco, Major
and Mrs Watling, Mrs L. B. Andersen, Mrs
D. McIntyre, Mrs Y. Kusumoto, Mrs Gold-
smith, Miss H. Kusumoto, Major Hds. T.
Phillips, Messrs C. W. Olsen, S. Maruyoshi, K.
Kitora, C. H. Bates, S. Osawa, A. Meyer, John
Allen, J. Gill, W. Johnson and Y. Momoyama.

Per Eastern, from Australian Ports, Mr and
Mrs McNeur and infant, Mr and Mrs J. Moir,
Mr and Mrs R. Powell, Mrs O'Gorman, Misses
Garvin, Trudinger, Parr, Campbell, Crystal,
Furness, Haslam, Gerard, L'ent. R. A. Beyers,
Dr. Joseph Fear Gus Ky, Messrs Paul, Cocolis,
W. B. Heyward, Sykes, Gray, A. B. Johnson
and M. de la Cruz.

Per Zelen, for Hongkong, from Yokohama
Miss S. de Courcy; from Koba, Misses S. J
Uroher and Nora Togen, Messrs Scott Harston
J. S. Harston, Vogelsang, C. de Minuril, A.
Hale, H. M. Louras and E. U. Thaver; from
Nagasaki, Mr and Mrs Oins Hikest; from
Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Blanche, Messrs T. M.
Camu, H. Fotton, C. Radburn, N. Shiras, U.
Mantsoner, Davis, Collmann, L. Mondera,
Edw. Gaster and Ch. Auer.

Per Delta, for Hongkong, from Shanghai,
Mrs J. A. Ross; from Yokohama, &c., for
London, Mr and Mrs Otani, Mr and Mrs S. M.
Sullivan, General and Mrs E. D. H. Ripley,
Mrs W. J. Rupert, Mrs Fraser and 2 infant,
Misses A. V. D. Ripley and A. S. Fr. Ripley,
Lt. G. C. Wheeler, Messrs I. Rupert, F. W.
Bickell, M. Afshar, C. Rosenstock, E. S.
Moore, L. D. Ming, Takashima, Dubois, B. D.
Hunter, McDougald and Hynd.

Per Prinz Sigismund for Hongkong, from
Sydney, Mrs Lens and daughter, Rev. A.
Cannon and Mr G. Dunbar; from Friedrich
Wilhelmshafen, Sister A. Dostsch; from
Simphonhafen, Mr C. Leidecker; from Yai,
Messrs Rohr and Karstedt; from Manila, Mr
and Mrs Miranda, Mr and Mrs Eya, Mrs G.
W. Stone, Misses Hoffmann (2), Miss A. Yeard,
Dr. S. S. Shealey, Messrs Synch and family, P.
Colley, M. S. Dudley and T. P. Dias.

DEPARTED.

Per Empire, for Australian Ports, Mr and
Mrs C. E. Button, Mr and Mrs Fergusson and
child, Mr and Mrs Johnson Mr and Mrs
Mitchell, Miss Coche, Messrs J. Witton Brown
and B. Crothers.

Per Asia, for San Francisco, Mr and Mrs
Geo. A. Fischer, Mr and Mrs J. Shore, Mr
and Mrs H. B. Stevenson, Mr and Mrs E. A.
Blair and child, Mr and Mrs E. J. Lynch, and
child, Mr and Mrs C. M. Eya and daughter,
Mrs M. Williams, Miss Clara Stevenson, Dr.
T. A. Broker, Dr. S. O. Netherlon, Dr. E. M.
Bigler, Messrs L. C. Harvey, B. M. Meis, P.
Colley, M. S. Dudley, D. Dorabjee and servant
and J. F. Greig.

Per Bubi, for Manila, Mr and Mrs H. P.
Lionell and 2 children, Mr and Mrs O. N.
McElroy, Mr and Mrs J. F. Ramer, Mr and
Mrs J. Leon, Mr and Mrs W. J. Hartman,
Mrs M. Bartlett and infant, Mrs E. Ullmann
and child, Mrs M. Delapentana, Misses J. C.
Chavama, N. T. Bardett, L. A. Freese, A. T.
Henry, M. D. Stewart, E. W. Russell, B. and
B. Ramirez, A. Ballard and A. Adella, Rev.
M. Bartlett, Messrs C. F. Drexel, E. H.
Robaru, F. E. Meredith, J. Ramirez, J. E.
Ramirez, J. Paulin and P. Latorre.

Per Zieten, for Bremen, &c., Mr and Mrs
Edward Ambrose, Mr and Mrs H. L. Christie,
Mr and Mrs Lavies, Mr and Mrs W. F.
Gaymann and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Morer
G. Johnston, Mr and Mrs Adolf Heflison, Mr
and Mrs Odell and child, Mr and Mrs A. B.
Voules, Dr. and Mrs L. D. Baskley, Mrs Lane
and 3 children, Mrs Joa. Pemoncy, Mrs Woods
Mrs A. E. Wells, Miss Fleck, Dr. Dammiller,
Capt. Bendixen, Rev. Hind and child, Rev.
Lower, Messrs George Armstrong, Davies Jr.,
C. Decker, Kehrster Adels Kestner, then
Friedlaeder, E. Epprecht, Schuster Oelske
Goma, C. Illies and family, G. Leber, Fr.
Mecke, Leidecker, T. B. Meis, Moby and
family, P. N. abig, Wm. Postach, Schumann
and family, and Ed. Schmid.

Printed and published by HANMAN & SONS
H.K., for the Concerned, at 104, Des Voeux
Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong
London Office, 121, Fleet Street, E.C.